FBIS DAILY REPORT

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Vol III No 024

3 February 1983

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PRAVDA ROUNDUP ON REAGAN, ANDROPOV EXCHANGE

PM031331 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 3 Feb 83 First Edition p 4

[TASS roundup dated 2 February 1983: "Principled, Serious Approach"]

[Excerpts] Comrade Yu.V. Andropov's replies to a PRAVDA correspondent's questions have been published in full or in detail throughout the world. Politicians and mass media abroad note that the Soviet Union, rejecting the unrealistic U.S. stance on disarmament questions, is once again showing a serious, principled approach to international problems and a will for peace and for seeking agreement on the basis of the principle of equality and equal security.

As Britain's THE DAILY TELEGRAPH notes, Yu.V. Andropov's replies generated a great interest in West Europe. The newspaper quotes a statement by Britain's Foreign Secretary F. Pym, voicing doubts that the Soviet leadership could accept Reagan's proposal since it is a simple repetition of the "zero option." Reagan's letter, the British Foreign office chief stated, merely reiterates Washington's former position.

D. Healey, deputy leader of Britain's Labor Party, sharply criticized the U.S. President's letter "to the peoples of Europe." He drew attention to the fact that Reagan's so-called "new peace initiatives" were known to be unacceptable to the Soviet Union. The U.S. President's statement, D. Healey stressed, is nothing but an attempt -- a clumsy attempt at that -- to sway public opinion. As LPS reports, British Labor members of Parliament are "inclined to regard Reagan's 'initiatives' as a concerted action by the NATO countries aimed at trying to counter the growing West European antiwar movement with propaganda statements." In this connection, THE DAILY TELEGRAPH points out that the USSR's readiness to discuss the broad basis for concluding agreements "is a considerable political gain for the Soviet Union in the eyes of the West European public."

Western diplomats, America's THE NEW YORK TIMES writes, found Yu.V. Andropov's reply unusually rapid. The Soviet leader rejected Reagan's proposal to sign on American terms an agreement on the elimination of medium-range nuclear missiles, as being still the same "zero option" which Moscow already views as unacceptable. Yu.V. Andropov accused the U.S. President of having a frivolous attitude to the question of a summit meeting, since the USSR was supposed to accept the U.S. proposals first. The Soviet leader pointed out that Washington's adherence to the "zero option" is deliberately dooming the Geneva talks to failure. The CPSU Central Committee general secretary stressed that, if the United States carries out the deployment of new missiles in Europe, the Soviet Union will respond to this in the appropriate fashion.

For its part another American newspaper, THE WASHINGTON POST, notes that Y.V. Andropov perceived Reagan's proposal as frivolous and as part of a political or propaganda game.

"The so-called 'zero option' once again proposed by Reagan is known to be unacceptable to the Soviet Union," West Germany's RHEINISCHE POST reminds us. GENERAL-ANZEIGER and STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG, also published in the FRG, mention this too.

London's THE TIMES points out that it would have been difficult to expect any other reaction from the Soviet leadership to the U.S. President's letter "to the peoples of Europe." The President advanced a condition compelling the USSR to sign an agreement whose basic tenet it has already rejected. All this makes one think that the American President wanted to launch a propaganda campaign rather than to really promote the successful completion of the disarmament talks.

According to Britain's THE GUARDIAN, Washington's overtly propagandist step "has had the effect of a political boomerang," since it has intensified still further the doubts of West European inhabitants as regards the sincerity of the U.S. Administration's intentions, and in particular its readiness to promote the easing of international tension.

Reagan's letter, the paper points out, has alarmed the West Europeans, who are by no means sure that the American Administration is in actual fact trying to conclude an agreement with the Soviet Union on medium-range missiles. The newspaper sees the U.S. President's letter as an attempt to influence FRG votes on the eve of the forthcoming parliamentary election in March. THE GUARDIAN stresses that Yu.V. Andropov's replies contain a realistic and broad basis for holding talks on medium-range missiles.

SOVIET START NEGOTIATOR COMMENTS ON TALKS

LD030415 Moscow Domestic Television Service in Russian 1945 GMT 2 Feb 83

[From "The World Today" program presented by Boris Kalyagin]

[Text] The Soviet-American talks on the limitation and reduction of strategic weapons reopened today in Geneva. The heads of the delegations met. Karpov heads the USSR delegation and Rowning heads the U.S. delegation. On the eve of the opening of the talks the leader of the Soviet delegation reconfirmed the Soviet Union's position: We are in favor of reaching an honorable accord with the United States, distinguished by the principle of parity and identical security. The Soviet proposals at the talks are a launched program of radical reduction of strategic weapons. However, the unconstructive nature of the American approach hinders accord being reached.

U.S.-USSR INF DELEGATIONS MEET IN GENEVA 3 FEB

LD031334 Moscow TASS in English 1202 GMT 3 Feb 83

[Text] Geneva February 3 TASS -- A plenary meeting of the Soviet and U.S. delegations at the talks on the limitation of nuclear armaments in Europe was held here today.

ISRAELYAN INTERVIEWED ON DISARMAMENT COMMITTEE WORK

AU021409 Sofia ZEMEDELSKO ZNAME in Bulgarian 1 Feb 83 p 4

[APN correspondent Vsevolod Shishkovskiy interview with Viktor Israelyan, head of the Soviet delegation to the Disarmament Committee in Geneva, for ZEMEDELSKO ZNAME]

[Text] Geneva 31 January -- The Disarmament Committee will resume its work in Geneva on 1 February. What are the main problems on the session's agenda? This was the question posed by the APN correspondent in Geneva to Viktor Israelyan, head of the Soviet delegation.

The Disarmament Committee, Viktor Israelyan noted, is now entering its third decade of existence. One must say that we have in the past done quite useful work to avoid the arms race as well as for disarmament.

In past years, however, the head of the Soviet delegation emphasized, the committee has been marking time and its work has obviously made no progress. This is confirmed by the fact that its members could not prepare even a single agreement in the sphere of limiting armaments. There is only one reason for this and that is the unwillingness of the United States and its NATO allies to sign an agreement in the sphere of disarmament.

The present session opens under conditions of an extreme exacerbation of the international situation when the military preparations of the United States and NATO have become unprecedented in scope. The West is propagating the concept of possible waging a "limited," "long" and other varieties of nuclear war. New types of weapons are being designed and put into production. It seems to me that under these conditions, the importance and role of the Disarmament Committee are particularly heightened.

The committee could in a specific period of time formulate an agreement on a full and general ban on nuclear weapons tests, formulate an international convention on liquidating chemical weapons and begin formulating a convention on banning the neutron weapon. In addition, it is necessary to begin talks without delay on banning the deployment of weapons in space, to more rapidly complete the coordination of an international convention on banning radiological [radiologichesko] weapons and finally, to facilitate the solution of the problem of strengthening the guarantees for safeguarding countries which have no nuclear weapons.

As you can see, Viktor Israelyan continued, the tasks are numerous and responsible. I can say that the Soviet delegation and the delegations of the socialist countries take a constructive stand on all of these problems, which makes it possible, of course, if the Western side is also ready, to reach satisfactory agreements as soon as possible. In conclusion, I wish to express the firm conviction that the latest great foreign political initiatives launched by Yuriy Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and the Prague Political Declaration of the Warsaw Pact member-states will undoubtedly be at the center of the attention of the Disarmament Committee's present session in Geneva.

PRAVDA CITES POLISH MBFR DELEGATE ON TALKS

PM021653 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 Jan 83 Second Edition p 4

[Unnamed correspondent's report: "Latest Round"]

[Text] Vienna, 27 Jan -- After the recess the Redouten Saal of Vienna's Hofburg came to life again today. The participants in the Vienna talks on the mutual reduction of armed forces and armaments in central Europe have again gathered around the big oval table. The latest, the 29th round of the talks has begun. As journalists have been told, the first plenary session was addressed by S. Przygodzki, leader of the Polish delegation.

The socialist countries, he said, consistently advocate the achievement of progress at the Vienna talks. This was confirmed by their supreme representatives at the recent conference of the Warsaw Pact states' Political Consultative Committee in Prague.

In the Warsaw Pact states' opinion, all the preconditions exist for an agreement to be reached at the Vienna talks as quickly as possible, in no more than 1-2 years. They have stated that for their part they will promote this in every way.

In this context they advocated the implementation of a practical step toward armed forces and arms reduction by the Soviet Union and the United States based on reciprocal example [primer]. The implementation of this step could be observed by the two sides' representatives. After its completion the levels of armed forces and armaments of the immediate participants in the Vienna talks on both sides would be frozen until agreement was reached at the talks. After the first mutual reduction the talks would continue with the aim of reaching agreement on further and larger reductions.

BEGLOV EXPLAINS SOVIET DISARMAMENT APPROACH

AU311245 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 28 Jan 83 p 7

[Article by Spartak Beglov, APN political observer: "What Is Concealed Behind the Soviet Peace Offensive?"]

[Text] News reaching us in Moscow from Washington make us draw the conclusion that the leader of the U.S. delegation at the Geneva negotiations on strategic nuclear arms and nuclear armaments in Europe has received instructions to maintain the previous "zero option" position. This position is unacceptable to the USSR, since it has become obvious that it implies on the American side the request for the USSR's unilateral disarmament. We also get the impression that the forthcoming mission of U.S. Vice President George Bush to Europe is aimed at weakening the effect of the Soviet proposals by attributing to them as their only merit the intention of "separating Europe from the United States." As has been announced, special groups for "defense against the USSR peace offensive" have been established at the White House.

It is not enough to say that such an approach threatens to deprive the West and the rest of the world of the unique chance posed by the initiatives of the East for a businesslike and constructive dialogue based on realism. The act of automatically labeling the Soviet initiative as "propaganda" and an "evil intention" jeopardizes the settlement of the crucial problem of our time, which is thus definitely relegated to a deadlock.

We can understand those people in the West who increasingly pose the justified question: Why, in the long run, do people in Washington not try to adopt a sober approach to the USSR's proposals, not with the prejudice of the "Soviet threat," but in a spirit of good will. It should be the same good will that truly permeates the most recent appeals launched from Moscow and Prague.

West and East, as well as all mankind have one common interest: to stop the arms race, which is the main danger threatening all of us, regardless of the differences in our ideologies.

Sober-minded people in the United States -- and there are enough of them in this great nation -- are obliged in the long run to admit that the American policy has never thought and operated in the categories of universal security, but always in the light of the priorities demanded by its own interests in one region or another of the world. Bearing this policy in mind, it has always been assumed that the Pentagon "has the right" to threaten the USSR and Eastern Europe with nuclear weapons on their own doorsteps, so to speak, while Washington literally becomes hysterical any time it is mentioned that any such Soviet weapons may be deployed in the avenues of approach to America itself.

Political sober-mindedness demands that the following circumstance be acknowledged: The Soviet Union and the other Warsaw Pact member-countries have always adhered to a more comprehensive and well-balanced approach to disarmament which is likely to ensure the possibility of avoiding the unilateral striving of the United States to seek in all things and in all places its own advantage and other people's disadvantage.

"The arms race is not our choice"; this is the constant credo of the Soviet foreign policy and it was particularly strongly emphasized by Yuriy Andropov, CPCU general secretary. We do not wish to possess one missile or one aircraft more than NATO. Instead of the new round in the arms race, imposed by Washington, the USSR prefers an agreement on reducing the level of nuclear confrontation, and the more radically it is brought about the better. To rely on a first nuclear strike is madness. Nonuse of military force -- either nuclear or conventional -- should become a contractual obligation.

We have every reason to believe that the lack of progress at the Geneva negotiations has been above all programmed by the American leadership, and that the reason does not lie in some kind of "window of vulnerability" appearing for the United States. The very trend toward a balance of forces, which characterized the last decades, is considered as unfavorable by certain circles in the United States. They are incapable of admitting and accepting this balance of forces and this is the heart of the matter.

It is not difficult to understand that there is an urgent necessity for a drastic change in the mentality of those in the West who are deciding upon the fate of war and peace. In the first place it is necessary to give up that automatically negative attitude in reaction to Soviet initiatives, which is inevitably followed by the automatic decision to deploy new missiles to the detriment of common security.

BEGLOV: U.S. DOES NOT RECOGNIZE EUROPEAN SECURITY

AU022000 East Berlin DER MORGEN in German 1 Feb 83 p 1

[Article by NOVOSTI observer Spartak Beglov: "The Arms Race Is Not Our Choice"]

[Text] It seems that the heads of the U.S. delegations to the Geneva negotiations on strategic nuclear weapons and on intermediate-range nuclear weapons in Europe have been instructed to adhere to the former "zero" positions: But these positions are unacceptable for the USSR because, as has been clearly demonstrated to the U.S. side, they amount to a demand for unilateral disarmament by the Soviet Union. The mission of Vice President George Bush in Western Europe also makes people sit up because it has been intended to defuse the effect of the new Soviet proposals. They are only credited with the intention to "uncouple Europe from the United States."

People in the West more and more frequently are posing the justified question: Why should not an attempt be made, at long last, to regard the USSR proposals in a sober-minded manner instead of suspecting them as a "Soviet conspiracy," and why is it impossible to give consideration to them with good will?

Sober-minded people in the United States -- and there are enough of these in such a great nation -- must after all admit that U.S. policy has never thought in terms of universal security and that it has always kept in mind the priority of its own interests in the various regions of the earth.

We shall be unable, for example, to detect anything in U.S. policy which evinces a recognition of security in Europe as a whole. West Europe has always figured as a bridgehead of the United States within the framework of the confrontation with the East and as a theater of actions against the East.

The Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact countries have always endorsed a global and balanced approach to disarmament.

"The arms race is not our choice" -- this constant avowal of Soviet policy was underscored particularly by Yuriy Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. We do not want to possess one single missile, one single plane more than NATO. Instead of the new armaments spiral imposed by Washington, the USSR would prefer an agreement on lowering the level of nuclear confrontation, and the more radically this is done the better. It is lunacy to bank on a nuclear first strike and on a victorious nuclear victory [as published]. The nonuse of military force -- both nuclear and conventional -- should be elevated to the rank of a treaty obligation. This is the Soviet position.

What can be "subversive" in such an approach to the cardinal issues of present times from the viewpoint of reasonable people in the West or in any other region of the world?

Only those people who are threatened by the failure of further-reaching ambitions of another nature, ambitions which link the escalation of nuclear armament with the belief in a nuclear war as a permissible means of policy, can attack the label of alleged propaganda to these proposals.

'ZERO OPTION' WILL ELIMINATE MILITARY BALANCE

LD011306 Moscow TASS in English 1215 GMT 1 Feb 83

["Once Again About the 'Zero Option'" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow February 1 TASS -- TASS political observer Igor Orlov writes:

When Paul Warnke, former head of the United States delegation to the strategic arms limitation talks, declares that the so-called "zero option", advanced by the White House, is unrealistic and cannot be at all acceptable to the Soviet Union, he expresses an opinion which is now shared by authoritative specialists in many countries, including the United States itself.

A paradox, however, is noted: The stronger the so-called "zero option" is subjected to all-round substantiated criticism, the more persistently official Washington spokesmen seek to propagate it.

Meanwhile, it is clear to everyone who is prepared to take into account hard facts, that Washington's "zero option" means a sharp break-up of that approximate parity in arms which had taken shape throughout many years.

It has already been noted more than once in the press that if the American "zero option" has implemented, NATO would have twice as many delivery vehicles and three times as many nuclear warheads as the Soviet Union. One must have a fantastic imagination to call such an option "zero".

The Soviet Union, it will be recalled, on its part proposed various options for a solution of the nuclear problem in the European zone, not prejudicing the interests of this or that side.

Let us recall that in the opinion of the Soviet Union an understanding could be reached not to have any nuclear weapons in Europe, neither medium range, nor tactical, neither on the side of the USSR nor on the side of NATO countries.

This would be an "absolute zero" for both sides. Another option is also suggested: Both sides would reduce their medium-range weapons (missiles and aircraft carrying nuclear weapons) by more than two thirds. In this case there would be no confrontation of Soviet and American missiles in Europe at all, while the USSR retained only as many missiles as Britain and France had together. As for aircraft, the Soviet Union also advocated full equality at a much lower level than now. In other words, the Soviet Union has clearly stated that it does not want to have in the European zone a single missile or a single aircraft more than the NATO countries have.

Such a just and constructive stand meets with broad understanding and support not only by the broad public but also by many farsighted political leaders and statesmen in the West. They are aware that mutually acceptable understandings can be reached only on the basis of the principles of equality and equal security. Diametrically opposite to these principles is the American "zero option".

The persistence and publicity tricks through which they seek to "sell" it to the public cannot dispel the widely held opinion that the only purpose of the notorious "zero option" is to cover up the deployment of American missiles in Western Europe in an attempt to eliminate the now existing balance in the military-strategic sphere.

FRENCH MAGAZINE CALLS FOR 'STRATEGIC BALANCE'

LD021638 Moscow TASS in English 1544 GMT 2 Feb 83

[Text] Paris February 2 TASS -- The French magazine DEFENCE NATIONAL has published an article refuting the allegations that the Soviet Union has achieved military superiority in Europe. Analysing the correlation of the forces of the Warsaw Treaty and NATO countries, the author of the article comes to the conclusion that there exists now an "approximate parity" between them. The situation in central Europe, for instance, remains unchanged, since 1970, except for the fact that the numerical strength of American troops has increased from 250,000 to 350,000.

Now that any achievements of either of the great powers in respect of armaments are matched by its principal rival within a comparatively short span of time, the escalation of the arms race will lead nowhere, the article says. The only alternative is to conclude a treaty on restraining the arms race and maintaining a stable strategic balance between the Soviet Union and the USA.

However, all indications are that the American Administration is going to choose a different way, the article says. In the foreign policy field it continues following the line chartered immediately after Ronald Reagan was elected President of the USA. The objective of this policy is for the United States to recapture first place by means of unprecedented armament efforts.

The state of affairs is such that under present conditions none of the great powers can achieve any considerable military superiority. Strategic equilibrium remains and hence the vital need now is to bring to conclusion the talks on arms control and reduction.

AMERICANS, PRAVDA READERS QUOTED ON ARMS ISSUES

PM021535 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 Jan 83 Second Edition p 4

[N. Larionova "Survey of Letters": "Most Precious of All"]

[Text] PRAVDA readers express unanimous support in their letters for the peace policy pursued by the CPSU and the Soviet Government. The new proposals put forward in the report delivered by Yu.V. Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, at the ceremony marking the 60th anniversary of the USSR's formation and the initiatives reflected in the Political Declaration of the conference of the Warsaw Pact member-states' Political Consultative Committee have prompted a big response.

The Soviet initiatives are finding increasing understanding across the ocean. The American Jack (Sakonik), vice president of the World Association of Federalists, writes: "The arms race, which is accelerating with every passing day and becoming an increasingly heavy financial burden, increases the risk of a nuclear war. We must not only halt the arms race but also change the very direction in which we are traveling. Now is the best time to secure fundamental accords."

"It seems to me that there is no real difference between military aggression and plain murder," argues another American -- Frederick (U.) Lang of New York State. "I do not believe that the working class of any country wants war and I do not believe that any mother wants to see her son killed in a war. I am convinced that all people want peace, regardless of which country they live in."

The need to reach an accord on limiting nuclear missile arms and banishing the threat of war evokes a lively response in our fellow countrymen's letters.

V. Putov from Tashkent, Muscovite Ya. Dvorkin, S. Didenko from Chernigov, and A. Sotnikov from Nikolayev condemn the U.S. Administration's aggressive policy, which is aimed at upsetting the current parity of forces in the world and ensuring the adoption of the notorious "zero option" at all costs.

The Washington administration's plans to deploy new U.S. missiles in West Europe are angrily condemned in letters from S. Borovkov in Moscow, Ye. Khavin in Leningrad, and others. Soviet people are unanimous in their desire to preserve peaceful skies over Europe -- the common home of many peoples. "By interfering in European states' internal affairs, the United States is doing great harm to the peoples of those countries, since the Pentagon's plans do not take their national interests into account," A. Zeyets writes to us from Bulayevskiy Rayon, North Kazakhstan Oblast.

Letters from N. Yerokhina and Isakovich in Dnepropetrovsk, Muscovite G. Churin, P. Tatarenko in Aleksandrovsk, Voroshilovgrad Oblast, and Leningrader A. Kashnov call for a U.S.-Soviet accord on limiting and reducing nuclear arms to be reached as soon as possible.

Letters are still coming in from PRAVDA readers expressing support for the peace-loving move by the USSR, which pledged not to be the first to use nuclear weapons, and condemning Washington's stance on this issue. "Just think!" I. Rysin writes from Gomel, "while our government has pledged not to be the first to use nuclear weapons, the United States is propagandizing the possibility of fighting a 'limited' or 'protracted' nuclear war, which would claim millions of lives."

Many of the letters reaching PRAVDA say: "We need peace; everyone needs peace."

Great Patriotic War Veteran M. Sunko, a teacher from the village of Losevka, Chernigov Oblast, shares his memories: "For more than 37 years there have been peaceful skies over Europe and my country. But I will never forget the terrible scenes of the last war. What grief and suffering it brought! Can the memory of the Ukrainian and Belorussian cities and villages burned to the ground and of the destruction in Poland and in Germany itself, where I fought, ever be forgotten?"

"I fought at the front," echoes A. Sinelnikov from Alma-Ata. "I know only too well what suffering is all about. I went right through the war and missed out on my youth. I was hospitalized six times, experienced the fiery days of Stalingrad and fought in the battles for the Kurile Islands. I am convinced that peace is the most precious thing on earth."

Then we have a letter from someone of a different generation: "I am a student. I am only 18. Like millions of my contemporaries I often think about my future, make plans and sketch out the possibilities.... But every time I am seared by the thought that none of this might come to pass because of someone's ill will. Speaking on behalf of my generation, we all want peace, to live, work and enjoy life in tranquillity. We know that there is now no more important task than that of preserving life on earth." This is from a letter received from A. Zhuk in Daugavpils.

These representatives of two different generations want the same thing: that peace should reign on earth, that young people should enjoy their youth -- a time of bright thoughts and dreams -- while the older generation should have time for further achievements, and that those who remember the nightmares of war should be fully confident that they will not recur.

CORRECTION: 29 JANUARY 'STUDIO 9' PROGRAM

The following corrections to the item entitled "Moscow TV's 29 January 'Studio 9' Program" published in the 31 January Soviet DAILY REPORT beginning on page CC 7, are supplied from a backstop recording of this program:

Page CC 8, paragraph three, line two, reads: even the United States can say that it has not broken off the dialogue with our country, virtually for even 1 day.... (supplying alternative translation).

Page CC 10, paragraph three, line five, reads: the NATO bloc surpasses the Warsaw Pact...(clearing queried word). Same page, paragraph six, line nine, reads: with the U.S. line of achieving military...(supplying alternative translation).

Page CC 13, last paragraph, line six, reads: is a correlation of approximately one to one....(supplying alternative translation).

Page CC 14, paragraph three, last line, reads: of nuclear arms limitation. To substantiate their...(supplying alternative translation).

Page CC 19, paragraph six, last line, reads: probably all feel -- is yielding certain results....(supplying alternative translation).

SOVIET LAWYERS URGE SUPPORT FOR PEACE MOVEMENT

LD022152 Moscow TASS in English 2040 GMT 2 Feb 83

["Statement by Soviet International Law Association" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow February 2 TASS -- Soviet international law experts have called upon all foreign colleagues "to actively join the mounting anti-war movement of the peoples, to firmly come out against the policy of force, the arms race and anti-communism, for strict observance of international law."

The statement emphasizes that the Soviet Union and other socialist states tirelessly fight for the observance of international law, calling upon the United States and its allies to renounce the stake on force in international relations and the stemming conception of the arms race policy, to step on the path of solution of international problems through negotiations on the basis of equality and mutual account for legitimate interests of all states.

"The Political Declaration of the Warsaw Treaty member states of 1983, speeches of General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Yuriy Andropov," the statement runs, "put forward concrete proposals, permeated with the striving for attaining agreements that could remove tension, created by the policy of President Reagan's administration, restore and develop further in accordance with the requirements of the U.N. Charter and the Helsinki Final Act, economic and other relations between states, which were undermined by that policy".

MOSCOW MEDIA CONTINUE TO ASSESS BUSH MISSION

'Undiplomatic Public Diplomacy'

PM031109 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 3 Feb 83 First Edition p 5

[Ye. Grigoryev "International Notes": "Transatlantic Paradoxes"]

[Text] It was observed a long time ago that whenever senior representatives of the present Washington administration set off on journeys through the NATO dales and hamlets their baggage is highly functional: a sample of U.S. "love of peace"; the obligatory "stick" for the dear old allies. Very often, however, there is no room for the traditional "carrot." All the space is primarily taken by empty barrels of rabid anti-Soviet claptrap which they grab and roll about thunderously whenever they get the chance.

The current tour of West European countries by U.S. Vice President G. Bush was no exception in this sense. A more undiplomatic "public diplomacy" would be hard to imagine. Take, for example, his speech in West Berlin in which the U.S. visitor made absurd charges against the USSR, slanderously distorted its policy and beat the notorious "Soviet threat" tattoo.

Anything goes when the aim is the ugly one of discrediting the Soviet Union's peace initiatives and undermining their influence on people's minds and on international politics. In fact, U.S. figures have no arguments worthy of attention. They also lack political flexibility, a businesslike response to constructive proposals, and basic decency. Instead you have the omnipresent "zero option" and a relentless desire to force the new U.S. nuclear missiles on the West Europeans.

The majority of the population in the countries G. Bush is visiting rejects the "arms-upgrading" plans, well aware that they pose a direct threat to peace. That is why the U.S. vice president, in addition to making anti-Soviet attacks, is making so much of "Washington's love of peace." "As for the assumption that the United States wants to confine the conflict to Europe, this, in my view, is a wicked paradox," he insisted in West Berlin. "Nothing concerns the President and me more than the contention that we are preparing to wage a nuclear war...."

What was the speaker hoping when he said that? That R. Reagan's sensational statement on the possibility of a "limited" nuclear war in Europe was not forgotten, since it has been made more than a year before? No, it is not forgotten.

But the Pentagon's latest annual report, submitted to Congress, was still unknown to the West Europeans at the time when G. Bush was beating his chest. Disregarding the West Europeans, U.S. Defense Secretary C. Weinberger announces that by the end of this year Washington will embark on the deployment of Pershing II and cruise missiles in Western Europe. As is known, their deployment is directly linked to U.S. plans for a "limited" nuclear war in the "European theater of hostilities." The Pentagon report contains guidelines on preparations for chemical warfare. The main accent is on accelerating the modernization of the entire U.S. nuclear potential: development and production of MX and Trident missiles, nuclear submarines, strategic bombers and qualitatively new systems of armaments with a first-strike capability, that is, for unleashing a war.

The Pentagon categorically rejects in its document the idea of pledging not to be the first to use nuclear weapons, of freezing nuclear arsenals. The entire program is geared to preparing for a so-called "protracted" nuclear war with the intention of winning it.

C. Weinberger's report is a very clear illustration to accompany G. Bush's assurances. At the same time, it is in the literal sense a "wicked paradox" for those who believe that anti-Soviet rhetoric and U.S. pseudo-love for peace can be used to blind people to the truth about the growing threat posed to peace in Europe and the whole world by the unprecedented program for "rearming America" and Washington's pursuit of military superiority.

However, there is no end of paradoxes on the other side of the Atlantic at the moment. While G. Bush was spurting vitriol in West Berlin and C. Weinberger was sending his arms race superprogram to Congress, the White House incumbent was addressing the annual meeting of leaders of radio stations broadcasting on religious themes. He announced not without zeal that he would be signing a proclamation making this the "year of the Bible" and piously assured the audience that this book would inspire his administration to "move on into the future." The audience might quite reasonably have said something like "You're no Christian," in view of the fact that the "year of the Bible" was chosen by its Washington proclaimers precisely in order to be able to demand $2 trillion in fiscal 1984-1988 to satisfy the Pentagon's appetite, that is, to prepare for war.

'Gallop Across Europe'

PM031223 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 3 Feb 83 Morning Edition p 5

["Political observer's notes" by S. Kondrashov: "Galloping Across Europe"]

[Text] U.S. Vice President George Bush is traveling around West Europe planning on visiting seven capitals in 12 days and setting out on 10 February on the return journey to Washington with a report for the man who sent him on the tour -- President Ronald Reagan. To begin with, let us try to apply a simple arithmetic approach to this trip. Dividing 12 days among seven capitals, we get approximately 40 hours in each. Let us also subtract the visit to West Berlin and the audience with the pope in Rome, the time spent in the air, the inevitable welcoming, luncheon and dinner ceremonies, and the time spent sleeping and doing physical exercises, in which the vice president indulges every day in order not to lose his figure.

What is left? A gallop across Europe is what is left. Let us add that only last week Reagan, and also Bush, received FRG Foreign Minister Genscher in Washington -- which would appear to deprive Bush's meeting with FRG Chancellor Kohl in Bonn of any practical expediency. Let us add that in Geneva Bush is meeting with the U.S. delegation at the talks on medium-range nuclear weapons even though it has not been long since President Reagan sent Ambassador Nitze, the head of that delegation, on his way. Let us finally add something from the statements of Bush himself -- for example, at his press conference before the tour. He said that his mission "does not provide for negotiations" and -- still more importantly! -- that he was "not taking any new proposals to Europe." Why, then, is this gallop, trumpeted with all possible noise as much as 3 weeks before the start, being organized? Bush talks about consulting the allies. But consultations, if they are serious, take time, which, as we have estimated, Bush simply does not have.

There remains one explanation -- publicity, political publicity. It is one more show staged by those who, back home in Washington, have only just proposed a budget which increases by $35 billion the already huge military spending and who, during this European tour, want to assure everyone of their desire for arms control. The West European leaders whom the American vice president is visiting have been invited to play their roles in the show.

However, it is an extremely serious matter. The year 1983 promises to be a turning point -- either toward improving the political situation in Europe or toward its still greater exacerbation. By the end of the year, if the Soviet-American talks in Geneva do not end in agreement, the Americans will start introducing their Pershing II's and cruise missiles into West Europe.

The new Soviet proposals on medium-range nuclear arms lie on the table at the Geneva talks, which have just resumed. As is known, they proceed from the principle of the full equality of the Soviet Union and the NATO countries regarding both missiles and aircraft carrying nuclear weapons. At the same time, equality at an incomparably lower level than now is proposed.

Steps in response from the other side, from the United States, are needed. Not only Moscow is talking about the need for these steps. Very broad West European circles -- not only public, but also official circles -- are looking to Washington, awaiting a concrete and constructive response to the Soviet initiatives. This is a very characteristic feature of the present time, and you only have to leaf through almost any major West European newspaper to discover this persistent motif: It is Washington's turn; and another motif alternating with the first one: Reagan's "zero option," which in fact provides for the USSR's unilateral disarmament. And the stubborn championing of this option does not open the way to agreement in Geneva but, on the contrary, keeps the Soviet-American talks in an impasse.

At all events, the need for flexibility, including the abandonment of the rigid strictures of the "zero option" and new constructive proposals from Washington, is being argued in Paris and London, in Rome and Bonn. And most of all in Bonn where passions are at white heat because of the political struggle before the 6 March Bundestag election. In Bonn the Social Democratic opposition is calling for a compromise in Geneva taking the new Soviet proposals into account, while the ruling coalition headed by Chancellor Kohl, although it displays more solidarity than others with the American stand, is keeping a wary eye on the mass voter, who plainly prefers to do without American missiles on West German territory.

During its 2 years in power the present American Administration has demonstrated its loyalty to the principle: If the facts are against us, so much the worse for the facts. But even it cannot ignore the facts of the Soviet "peace offensive" and its impact on the West European public, fearing political isolation and the still greater exacerbation of relations with allied governments, which are experiencing growing pressure from their own peoples.

A great deal has been said recently on the other side of the ocean about the battle for West Europeans' hearts and minds and about "public diplomacy." As can be seen, "public diplomacy" is an attempt to sell an unmarketable commodity, an unpopular policy in a new and more attractive propaganda wrapping. George Bush is not traveling around West Europe now for talks or even for consultations with West European leaders. His bags are empty ("not taking any new proposals with him"), but on the other hand they are plastered with various multicolored labels of the latter-day "public diplomacy."

Examples? President Reagan's address to the peoples of Europe, which Bush read in West Berlin. The address propagandized the same old "zero option," although the term itself was omitted -- is this not the sole "concession" to public opinion?

Comments in the press -- the West European and the American press -- on this address are strikingly unanimous: nothing new, strictly a propaganda gesture.

A quick official response came from the Soviet side, too. Yu.V. Andropov's replies to the PRAVDA correspondent's questions state that the American President's adherence to the former stance "attests to one thing: The United States is reluctant to seek a mutually acceptable accord with the Soviet Union and is thereby deliberately dooming the Geneva talks to failure."

West Germany's GENERAL-ANZEIGER writes that the American policy is "increasingly coming up against skepticism even among friends."

The U.S. vice president's tour has also come up against skepticism even among the bourgeois, "Atlantic" press. Many commentators considered its purpose wittingly unattainable. As long as 2 weeks ago THE WASHINGTON POST predicted: "A question which will be put to Bush behind the scenes during his visit to Europe reads as follows: Does the President sincerely want the arms race to be ended? This question could be answered thus: 'Yes and no:....' The President keeps changing his mind on this question."

There is no denying that this is an unflattering reference. But it remains valid. And there is one true way of refuting it. Not from the arsenal of Hollywood advertising agencies. Nor does this way consist in sending the American vice president off to gallop across Europe, but in placing on the Geneva negotiating table constructive, realistic proposals which contribute to reaching agreement. This is precisely what the peoples await from the American leadership. It is precisely these expectations that cannot be disregarded these days by the West European figures who are Bush's interlocutors.

'Traveling Salesman' for Reagan

LD030024 Moscow Domestic Television Service in Russian 1545 GMT 2 Feb 83

[From "The World Today" program presented by political observer Boris Kalyagin]

[Text] The West European tour of U.S. Vice President George Bush is continuing. After the FRG he went to the Netherlands. In The Hague the White House envoy was received by Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands. [Camera shows Bush meeting Queen Beatrix] Bush also had talks with Prime Minister Lubbers and other members of the government. [Camera shows Bush being received by government leaders.]

Diplomatic smiles cannot disguise the concern of the vice president. In the view of the London weekly THE OBSERVER, Bush has come to Europe on the most delicate mission ever facing an U.S. leader. He has to try to convince the Europeans that the United States does not want a nuclear confrontation and is striving to achieve an agreement with the Soviet Union at the talks in Geneva. The mission really is a delicate one. That is putting it mildly especially since everything the United States is doing points to quite the contrary. Not only the West European public, but also a number of prominent political and state figures have expressed doubts about Washington's sincerity and have voiced suspicions that the talks which are being held in Geneva are no more than a screen for the Reagan administration behind which it can more easily pursue a policy of building up nuclear weapons.

These are just a few of the most recent statements: Gro Harlem Brundtland, chairman of the Norwegian Labor Party, leveled the charge against the head of the U.S. Administration that the United States is not conducting serious talks in Geneva; Hjeld Olesen, a prominent figure in the Danish Social Democratic Party and former foreign minister, described the U.S. position at the Geneva talks as unrealistic. The list of such remarks could be continued.

The statement of the U.S. vice president appears laughable against this background. He again tried to make out that the antiwar movement in the West is inspired by Moscow agents. George Bush went so far as to claim that the demonstrations by the peace campaigners are all but organized by the Soviet special services. [Camera shows antiwar demonstration in West Berlin] If the vice president had not hidden from the thousands of demonstrators in West Berlin behind a solid wall of police and his own security agents, he would probably have been able to see that among the ranks of the demonstrators were people of different ages, different professions and even different political views. They were united by a concern for the destiny of peace which is threatened by the U.S. arms buildup program.

George Bush preferred, however, not to meet representatives of the antiwar movement, and wrongly so.

The well-known U.S. observer Reston points out in THE NEW YORK TIMES that in the absence of progress at the talks in Geneva, the governments of the West European countries which have agreed to site new U.S. intermediate-range missiles on their territory may find themselves in a situation in which the populations of those states vote against them and remove them from power. As a result, the Governments of Belgium and the Netherlands so far have not made a final decision on siting the U.S. missiles. They have not done so simply because it is difficult for them to move the decision through parliament since the public of those countries are against it. The British Labor Party has declared that if it takes office U.S. nuclear weapons will not be stationed on British soil.

But Washington is concerned most of all by the situation in the FRG. Just over a month is left before general elections in the country and the issue of new U.S. missiles has become one of the main issues in the election campaign. It is not by accident that Bonn was the first stop in George Bush's itinerary. The latest public opinion poll, the French newspaper LES ECHOS, points out, shows that Chancellor Kohl's active support for the zero option has led to a weakening of the position of the ruling coalition which, on on the eve of the forthcoming election, has found itself in a clearly difficult position. The U.S. Administration, LES ECHOS says, is doing its utmost to help Kohl win the election since Washington feels that if the social democrats come into power this would represent a serious danger for NATO. Bush is having a difficult time of it in the thankless role of traveling salesman for Reagan's policies.

Washington's Mistakes

LD030402 Moscow in English to North America 2300 GMT 2 Feb 83

[Text] The negotiators at the resumed Geneva talks on medium-range nuclear weapons in Europe have before them Soviet proposals that could reduce the number of medium-range nuclear missiles and the number of aircraft for delivering nuclear weapons to the same levels for the Soviet Union and NATO, and levels much lower that the present. Now it is up to the United States to respond to these proposals. Perhaps the visit of George Bush will give the answer. Vladimir Lomako examines the possibility in the commentary that follows:

The White House has made no secret of the fact that the purpose of the vice president's visit is not to find ways to reduce the danger of nuclear war, but to promote President Reagan's latest experiments in public diplomacy. For this reason, Vice President Bush is viewing the Soviet peace proposals as propaganda, pure and simple, and answering them in the same way. This is Washington's first mistake: the unwillingness to understand or respect the Soviet Union, and America's allies too for that matter.

The second mistake is this: Mr Bush considers it his duty, as he says, to remind West Europeans of the NATO decision. He believes the problem disturbs only some of the public. But NATO took its decision in 1979 because otherwise the United States refused to ratify SALT II. The missiles were to be deployed only if there was no progress at the talks, and now America's zero option has deadlocked the talks.

As for Mr Bush's assumption that the problem of nuclear saturation of Europe disturbs only some of the public in Western Europe, in reality it disturbs not only the general public but most of the responsible politicians as well.

Washington's third mistake is probably the most important one because it reflects the difference between the West European attitude and the American attitude. Mr Bush appears to think his duty is to bring the truth to Europeans and make them understand what the President finds most disturbing. He said as much. In reality, the United States should be trying to understand the fears and concerns of Europeans and considering their interests.

When the Argentine writer Gabriel Garcia Marque received the Nobel Prize in Stockholm last year he said a very wise thing. He said measuring the realities of another nation by one's own yardstick only made for still greater alienation. To understand another, one must put oneself in his place. Since 1945 American politicians have assumed that since the United States is strong and wealthy it is always in the right. For Europeans who not only have an older civilization but have experienced more of the horrors of war and have a better understanding of the advantages of less tension, the idea of peaceful cooperation in Europe has far more meaning than for many American politicians.

When Vice President Bush says arms control is not a matter of principle but a question of practical measures, he is saying the very opposite of what most people in Europe believe. These mistaken assessments not only make Mr Bush's mission difficult, they augur little for its success. As for the Europeans, they will hardly hear anything new from the guest.

U.S. Missile Deployment

LD021000 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2330 GMT 2 Feb 83

[From the "International Diary" program presented by Valentin Gubernatorov]

[Text] UPI reports that U.S. Vice President Bush has arrived at NATO Headquarters in Brussels. In a statement Bush made at Brussels Airport, he called for unity among NATO members on the issue of the deployment of new U.S. nuclear missiles in West Europe. In effect, Bush's trip to the European Continent has been undertaken with only one aim -- to (?subdue) the allies into accepting U.S. plans for the deployment of these missiles by the end of the current year.

Knowing that a powerful movement of protest against such plans exists in West Europe, Bush is trying to intimidate the allies by claiming that the Soviet Union has superiority in nuclear missiles over the West European countries. In this context, the reaction of the Netherlands public to similar statements by the U.S. vice president is interesting. Bush arrived in Brussels from the Netherlands.

Bush's allegations about the nuclear superiority of the Soviet Union were met guardedly. A spokesman for the Netherlands Communist Party described the trip by the U.S. emissary as a smokescreen behind which Washington is trying to conceal a buildup of arms in Europe. A Labor Party spokesman described the journey as a propaganda trick which can easily be seen through.

'Dangerous Plans'

LD030410 Moscow Domestic Television Service in Russian 1945 GMT 2 Feb 83

[From "The World Today" program presented by Boris Kalyagin]

[Text] George Bush continues his tour of Western Europe. He had talks in The Hague with Netherlands Prime Minister Lubbers. Speaking at a news conference, he again tried to persuade journalists that the United States allegedly wants agreement with the USSR, something which is increasingly difficult to believe.

Also today, Bush arrived in Brussels. Here he will try to pressure the Belgian Government to give official consent to the deployment of 48 U.S. cruise missiles with nuclear warheads in that country. Like the Netherlands, Belgium has not yet given final consent for the deployment of these missiles because of the powerful public protest movement against these dangerous plans of the Pentagon and NATO.

REAGAN LETTER TERMED 'SELF-ADVERTISEMENT'

LD021953 Moscow Domestic Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 2 Feb 83

[Commentary by political observer Eduard Mnatsakanov from the Vremya newscast]

[Text] Good day, comrades. The head of the White House has sent his deputy, Vice President Bush, to West Europe. He has even provided him with a special appeal to the people of Europe, as the American press is openly saying, primarily to try to counter the Soviet Union's peace offensive. That is a highly difficult task if one considers the enormous effect the new peace initiatives of the Soviet Union and the entire socialist community are having on the European public.

THE WASHINGTON POST writes about the major efforts being made now by the United States to seize the initiative from the Russians. For this Bush, in the words of the same newspaper, has been given the job of convincing the West Europeans of the U.S. Administration's love for peace. But how can this be done if neither Reagan's message nor Bush's diplomatic baggage contain any new ideas or proposals, if the only thing that the transatlantic guest is urging is the unification of the NATO partners on the basis of Reagan's same old pseudo-zero option?

Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov's replies to questions from a PRAVDA correspondent which are published today give a clear and precise assessment of the Reagan option. It is an option, as Comrade Andropov emphasized, that is patently unacceptable for the Soviet Union since it calls for the unilateral disarmament of our country alone.

Take instead the question of a possible Soviet-American summit meeting. The TIMES of London stresses that if the U.S. President is really seeking such a meeting with the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee then he should have first turned to the USSR directly with a proposal for such a meeting.

In the opinion of some foreign observers, Reagan's letter is an attempt at self-advertisement and is primarily of a pre-election character. It is difficult to say what is meant here: the election battle in the FRG or the election campaign which is getting under way in the United States itself. But one thing is clear. The new U.S. political action serves neither the cause of progress at the Geneva talks on the limitation of nuclear weapons in Europe nor the positive development of Soviet-U.S. relations in general. If anyone did have illusions about whether the U.S. Administration wanted to introduce any constructive element into the Geneva talks, Reagan's letter to the people of Europe has completely swept away those illusions.

So, setting off for Europe with that message in his briefcase, the U.S. vice president indeed took upon himself a difficult mission, and a thankless one, too, because it is pursuing an objective which has nothing to do with the interests of peace and European security.

FURTHER COMMENTS ON WEINBERGER CONGRESS REPORT

PM021649 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 2 Feb 83 First Edition p 3

[TASS correspondent A. Shalnev commentary: "In the Spirit of Militarism"]

[Text] Washington, 1 Feb -- The United States is doing its utmost to speed up militarist preparations. This is clearly evidenced by Defense Secretary C. Weinberger's routine annual report which was submitted to the U.S. Congress today.

The document sets out concrete measures aimed at the further "rearming of America" -- a large-scale program for the buildup primarily of strategic nuclear weapons, devised by the Reagan administration. It is designed for fiscals 1984-1988 and is estimated to cost almost $2 trillion. Annual appropriations for the Pentagon will increase from the present level of $260 billion to $425 billion by the end of the 5-year period.

The Pentagon chief is trying to justify the latest stage in the unprecedented arms race by hackneyed references to the mythical "threat from the East" and the alleged "military vulnerability of America."

However, it follows from these pronouncements of his that it is precisely the United States that is endeavouring by any means to secure military superiority for itself for the sake of satisfying its imperial ambitions. Weinberger admits that this program is based on the concepts and doctrines which have long been Washington's guide and which, as is known, pursue far-reaching aggressive goals. In particular, the Reagan administration's desire to act exclusively from positions of strength, to "project the military might" of the United States in any region of the world and to prepare for protracted warfare against the Soviet Union with the aim of winning victory can be clearly traced in the report. Weinberger categorically rejects as unacceptable to the United States the ideas of adopting a pledge not to be the first to use nuclear weapons and of freezing nuclear arsenals.

The program's emphasis is primarily on the "modernization" of the U.S. nuclear potential and creating qualitatively new weapons systems designed to deliver a first nuclear strike.

In particular, in fiscal 1984 alone it is planned to spend over $6.6 billion on the development, production and purchase of MX ICBM's, around $5 billion is being earmarked for the acquistion of Trident nuclear-armed submarines, and over $20 billion is being allocated for the production of B-18 strategic bombers equipped with cruise missiles.

The report confirms that, despite the angry protest of the West European public, the United States intends to begin deployment in West Europe of Pershing II missiles and cruise missiles with nuclear warheads bv the end of this year. At the same time sinister plans are being elaborated to supplement NATO arsenals with neutron warheads.

The Pentagon's "5-year plan" is also aimed at an all-out buildup of U.S. naval strike power: by 1988 the number of warships will increase to 610 and by the start of the nineties to 650. Colossal funds are being earmarked for the "modernization" of ground forces and the Air Force.

The report confirms Washington's intention to speed up preparations for chemical warfare.

U.S. UNEMPLOYMENT, BUDGET DEFICIT VIEWED

LD030252 Moscow TASS in English 1003 GMT 2 Feb 83

[Text] Washington February 2 TASS -- As transpires from the report of the economic council under the President, submitted by Ronald Reagan to Congress today, in this year the U.S. will face continuing recession in industry, a high level of unemployment and a record federal budget deficit.

The report authors admit that the U.S. economy experiences a painful slowing down of the rates of development, as a result of which in December 1982 unemployment in the country affected 10.8 per cent of the total labour force, which means 12 million people. The report notes that in the U.S. at present there are 5 million more jobless than in January 1980, the previous administration's last year in office. The level of unemployment, the report says, is now higher than at any time since the Great Depression of the thirties.

This year, however, will not see any appreciable reduction in the army of jobless. Economic advisers predict that is average level will be 10.7 per cent, and at some time during the year can affect as much as 11 per cent of the total active population.

Another rather serious problem is the growing federal budget deficit, which in the current financial year is predicted to reach 207.7 billion dollars, a figure unprecedented in the whole history of the United States. As is pointed out in the report, the large budget deficits can affect negatively the prospects for an economic revival.

The report indicates the loss by the United States of its formerly strong positions in international trade, and the foreign trade deficit, which has been chronic since the start of the seventies.

At the same time, however, the report says not a word about the fact that one of the principal causes of the country's economic woes is the unprecedented increase by the present administration of the U.S. military spending which it is planned to bring up to 280.5 billion dollars in the next financial year. Meanwhile, however, this is the main reason for the growing federal budget deficit. Besides, investment in the armaments industry creates much less jobs than similar investment in civilian branches.

U.S. PROGRAM FOR ECONOMIC RECOVERY CITED

LD031058 Moscow TASS in English 0845 GMT 3 Feb 83

[Text] Washington February 3 TASS -- Democratic Party leaders in the U.S. Congress have decided to put forward a programme for a recovery, renewal and reconstruction of the national economy as opposed to the discredited economic policy of the Reagan administration. As newsmen were told by speaker of the House of Representatives Thomas O'Neill after a meeting with Democratic Party leaders in the House of Representatives, now that there are 14 million jobless in the country, the highest unemployment rate ever in the USA, the time has come to adopt such a programme. But, the AP agency points out, its specific details have not been made public so far. The Democrats are supposed to confine themselves to a request for the appropriation of several billion dollars to create additional jobs in the government sector.

Observers evaluate the demarche of the legislators as some kind of a no-confidence vote in the economic policy of the present administration, which has plunged the country into the gravest economic crisis since the times of the Great Depression of the thirties.

TRUD OBSERVER ASSESSES REAGAN'S FIRST 2 YEARS

PM021641 Moscow TRUD in Russian 28 Jan 83 p 3

[TRUD political observer Vissarion Sisnev article under the rubric "On a Topical Theme": "Reaganomics and Reagapolitics"]

[Text] It is customary to judge politicians in accordance with the aims they set themselves on commencing work and making promises to the voters. In this specific case we will try to approach President Reagan with this yardstick. He has just passed the halfway mark -- he has been in the White House for 2 years. By American tradition, in these circumstances it is customary to sum up some of the results, the more so since the campaign of preparation for the next presidential election officially begins at the same time.

Let us go back to that day, 20 January 1981, when the newly elected President made his first, programmatic speech. He then appealed, from the steps of the Capitol: "Let us lay the foundations for an era of national renewal." He declared: "Our aim must be a sound, active, growing economy providing equal opportunities for all Americans."

And: "Your dreams, your hopes, your aims will be the dreams, hopes and aims of my administration -- so help me God!" "We have a right to dream heroic dreams. Those who say we are living in a time without heroes simply do not know where to look for them. You can see heroes every day as they enter or leave the factory gates. Others, not so very many in number, produce the food to feed us all...."

On your very first acquaintance with American reality you might think that the dreams, hopes and aims of U.S. citizens were increasing unemployment, the reduction of budget resources for social needs, an astronomical budget deficit and frenzied militarization. Because that is what has been achieved in 2 years by the state administration whose economic program has become known as "Reaganomics."

Reagan and his team were unable to balance the budget, and the deficit planned for the current year will be the biggest in the country's entire history -- between $180 billion and $185 billion. Naturally, the second task of "Reaganomics" was not resolved either -- taxes are not falling. On the contrary, Treasury Secretary Regan is talking about increasing taxes by another 2 percent. Industrial production has fallen by 8.7 percent in 2 years -- which does not, of course, apply to the military sector. Unemployment now embraces not 7.5 but 10.8 percent of the population capable of work. Not 8 million but 12 million "heroes" (or 15 million according to trade union figures) now no longer return to the factory gates. The "heroes who produce food" are experiencing very difficult times, many of them are being ruined and their farms are being auctioned. "Historians will have to go back to the early thirties to find something comparable to the present level of hardship among farmers," the U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT, the weekly magazine for businessmen, noted 17 January. And a public opinion poll showed that in the period since June of last year the number of Americans who believe the administration is unfair and serves the interests of the rich alone has increased from 58 to 63 percent. A well-founded conclusion, because statistics show clearly that the gulf between the haves and the have-nots has widened still further under Reagan.

Much has been written about the main reason for all this, but it is worth mentioning it yet again. It is the militarist campaign launched by Reagan's team with the aim of achieving "unconditional military superiority" over the Soviet Union. The proportion of military spending in the total U.S. Government expenditure, which was 22.2 percent in 1981, is steadily increasing and will be 35 percent by 1987. You do not have to be an economist to realize that such generosity toward the military industry magnates and the Pentagon generals is incompatible with the interests of the modest "heroes" of whom the President spoke so touchingly on taking office.

So if you judge the results of the first 2 years of the presidency by the rules which Reagan made for himself, that is, by what he promised, the conclusion drawn by Thomas O'Neill, the country's senior politician and speaker of the House of Representatives, becomes understandable: "The President has now lost his halo." It is understandable why 500 prominent politicians, businessmen and scientists wrote an open letter to Reagan the other day warning that the continuation of his course will lead to irreversible consequences which will destroy hopes for a revival of the national economy.

"Reagapolitics," based on "Reaganomics," has proved to be a good match for it. Reagan needed to expand and intensify military production not as an end in itself but in order to implement hegemonist plans on a global scale and exacerbate confrontation with the socialist countries. Reagan proclaimed a new crusade against them from the platform of the British Parliament. In these 2 years the world has heard from Washington of the possibility of a "limited nuclear war" in Europe, of the possibility of U.S. victory in a nuclear war and of many other equally frightening concepts. And this dangerous juggling with nuclear weapons did indeed frighten people -- not the Soviet Union, as the Washington crusaders wanted, but their own allies and the American people themselves.

An antiwar movement has sprung up in the United States on an unprecedented scale -- as an answer and a reaction to "Reagapolitics." Millions of Americans doubtless share the opinion expressed in THE NEW YORK TIMES by two prominent diplomats -- T. Watson, former ambassador to the USSR, and (G.) Garrison, former U.S. charge d'affaires in the USSR: "Those who still hope we will be able to intimidate the Soviet Union or force it into subordination, and if nothing comes of that, that we will be able to start and win a nuclear war -- such people are deliberately or unconsciously pushing us towrad disaster."

Dissatisfaction with "Reaganomics" and "Reagapolitics" is not only expressed in public opinion polls; it was manifested in concrete form in November at the midterm elections to Congress. The Republicans -- Reagan's party -- did not secure control of the House of Representatives and lost many governorships. The U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT calculates that 25 candidates for whom Reagan personally campaigned did not succeed in the midterm elections -- nor did 14 of his unswerving henchmen in the House of Representatives. And even formerly likeminded people have started deserting Reagan's ship. Sensing that the administration's course is a threat to their personal prestige among voters, more than one-fourth of the Republican congressmen voted against the appropriations Reagan demanded for MX missiles.

It is reckoned that the third year of the presidency is decisive, that it determined whether the President has a chance on a second term. Let us not engage in predictions, let us not prejudge the American's decision, to which they alone have a right. Let us merely cite the opinion of two leading political observers on the state of affairs and on prospects. Hugh Sidey (TIME 24 January: People are leaving Reagan en masse, weakening the foundations of his strength. If nothing changes in the near future the next 2 years of his presidency will be merely ceremonial." Marvin Stone (U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT 17 January): "If millions remain without work, many of them homeless and hungry; if stores and enterprises continue to close; if workers and businessmen see no direct actions with that aim; an unstoppable wave of disillusionment could rise." As yet nothing of the kind can be seen on the American horizon to revive hope for those whom Reagan called "heroes" 2 years ago and whom he has deprived of the sacred right to work.

HARRIS POLL SHOWS FALL IN REAGAN'S POPULARITY

LD271409 Moscow TASS in English 1404 GMT 27 Jan 83

[Text] New York January 27 TASS -- The returns of a Harris Poll show that the trust of the U.S. electorate in President Reagan has waned dramatically. According to the poll, if the presidential elections were held in the United States today the President would be defeated by two Democratic rivals. 53 per cent of the polled prefer former U.S. Vice President Walter Mondale, and 55 per cent -- Senator John Glenn.

FURTHER ON NEW U.S. 'PROPAGANDA' COMMISSION

LD021908 Moscow Domestic Television Service in Russian 1615 GMT 30 Jan 83

[From the "International Panorama" program presented by Gennadiy Gerasimov]

[Text] Hello, comrades! January was the month of the Soviet peace offensive. This is not just our expression, it is in general use. For instance, FRG Chancellor Helmut Kohl gave an interview to a French weekly and was asked: How do you assess the U.S. reaction to Moscow's peace offensive? He answered this without disputing the manner in which the question was put. The expression has gained general currency in political life.

January was also the month of U.S. confusion. This is the answer to the question asked to Kohl about the U.S. reaction: In the peace offensive, there is a factor at work, a valuable factor in any offensive -- the factor of surprise. In the United States they are judging by their own standards. There, when an administration changes, a year or more goes by in which the newcomers find their way around in international affairs. So using their own yardstick, they did not expect early diplomatic activity from Moscow. Hence the confusion. This word is not just ours: to be more precise, it is not ours at all. It was used by Western and U.S. journalists in describing the situation in Washington: confusion.

In considering how to reply, Washington adopted a purely American approach. Most Americans feel that any problem can be solved if money is available. Any goods can be sold -- even refrigerators to the Eskimos, as they say -- if there is good advertising. So, money had to be found to advertise U.S. policy.

Another thing they like to do in the United States is to set up commissions. However, they did not judge the core of the problem correctly. They thought U.S. policy is poorly understood, but in fact, the policy itself is bad.

But again, in the United States, advertising is a motive force, not only in commerce but also in politics, and one may try to produce good advertising for bad goods. So on 14 January the National Security Council adopted Directive No 77 on setting up a special propaganda headquarters called the political commission for advertising -- oh, excuse me! -- for public diplomacy. As THE NEW YORK TIMES reported, and I quote, the aim is to counter the Soviet peace offensive. Here we have this expression again. The group is an impressive one, the best players on Reagan's team. At the head is Clark, the President's assistant for national security; Shultz, the secretary of state; Weinberger, the secretary of defence; Wick, the USIA director; and McPherson, IDCA [U.S. International Development Cooperation Agency] director. The committee has four subcommittees.

That is the setup. In accordance with the aforementioned traditional U.S. approach to solving problems, much money is being set aside: $20 million to start and a further $65 million later. With the aid of these millions, they want to make U.S. policy protest-proof.

MOSCOW TV VIEWS U.S. 'PASSION' FOR CW PRODUCTION

LD022024 Moscow Domestic Television Service in Russian 1615 GMT 30 Jan 83

[From the "International Panorama" program presented by Gennadiy Gerasimov]

[Excerpts] On Tuesday, the President spoke in Congress, delivering the traditional annual State of the Union message. Well he might talk about the state of the union; there is much to be said about it. But he did not refrain from repeating something from his collection of deliberate untruths: In particular, he alleged that the Soviet Union is in breach of international agreements on chemical and bacteriological weapons. But it is America which has always had a particular, pathological passion for chemical weapons. Only after a shameful delay of half a century did the United States accede to the Geneva Protocol of 1925 on banning gases and bacteriological means in war; yet after acceding, under President Reagan, a program for chemical rearmament was announced and new kinds of paralytic nerve gases are now being sealed in metal barrels.

Any weapon is terrible, but chemical weapons, from the very beginning, have been in the category of barbarous and revolting. The Soviet Union proposes that they should be banned and the stocks destroyed. This is President Reagan's opinion: He says that the production of deadly binary chemical ammunition is important for safeguarding the national interests. Note the word "deadly." So, in future, there will not be whole generations of crippled people as there now are in Vietnam.

KORIONOV ATTACKS U.S. 'GLOBAL STRATEGY'

PM021621 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 2 Feb 83 First Edition p 4

[Article by political observer Vitaliy Korionov: "Afraid in the Face of the Future"]

[Excerpts] Opposing the aggravation of international tension -- that is the imperious demand of our time.

"Those circles which would like to disrupt the only sensible basis for relations between states with different social systems -- peaceful coexistence -- are showing themselves increasingly persistently," states the Political Declaration of the Warsaw Pact states adopted by the conference in Prague on 5 January 1983. "The tangible progress in normalizing international relations which began to influence the overall development of world affairs in the seventies is now threatened."

No efforts by imperialist propaganda can conceal the obvious fact that it is primarily those forces in the United States which are totally reluctant to abandon their designs to become the sole controllers of the destiny of the world that have been and remain the source of this danger.

Their globalist, hegemonist aspirations cloud the eyes of imperialist politicians and prevent them from realistically assessing the disposition of forces in the international arena. They give rise to what progressive U.S. figures describe as "great-power arrogance" and "the conceit of power." With this approach the battle of ideas is turned into a confrontation between states, and weapons and the readiness to resort to them become the yardstick of the potential of social systems.

This policy does not attest to the imperialist ringleaders' self-confidence. Fear in the face of the objective course of history is gnawing at the hearts of the latterday "crusaders." The journal BLAETTER FUER DEUTSCHE UND INTERNATIONALE POLITIK published in Cologne (FRG) rightly notes: "The present U.S. course is not a passing political whim: It has its roots in the capitalist crisis, from which extreme rightwing U.S. circles, whose influence has been mounting since the mid-seventies, see no way out except by Reagan's path."

Indeed, the seventies were years of the further weakening of imperialism's positions. The capitalist countries are struggling in the clutches of an economic crisis from which they can see no way out. The social contradictions of the old society are worsening. New states are embarking on the path of independent development. The U.S. clout in the capitalist world's economy and politics is declining. The knot of intra-imperialist contradictions is tightening.

The bigwigs of the U.S. military-industrial monopolies, the militarist clan and the extreme rightists are reluctant to acknowledge the obvious -- namely that the source of their troubles lies in their exploiter system, in the defects of the capitalist system, in imperialism's oppressive policy. Instead they are taking up arms against socialism and the detente policy consistently upheld by the socialist community. They are again trying to find an escape for themselves along the paths of confrontation and military adventures.

The course steered by the present U.S. Administration toward the implementation of its hegemonist designs is camouflaged by the slogan of restoring "U.S. leadership." The foreign policy section of the report "The Reagan Presidency" published recently by the White House public liaison department is actually called "How To Restore U.S. Leadership." The report says: "President Reagan came to power confident that the way to solve America's problems is to increase its defense might, including its economic and military might."

The frenzied arms race, the desire to extend the Pentagon's "presence" to all parts of the world, the expansion of the worldwide system of military bases and strongholds is concealed by the screen of "defending U.S. interests." Essentially the entire world has been declared to be a zone of these "interests."

Pentagon chief Weinberger says: U.S. interests "are worldwide and therefore the country's military policy must be viewed in a global context." The White House's present incumbent sets out its designs no less frankly. In his speech in Long Beach (California) he formulated the goal of U.S. policy in the following words: "gaining access to all oceans of the world; controlling the airspace above them, their surface, and the oceans' depths."

These aims form the basis of the Pentagon's military plans. One of them is the "Defense Directive for Fiscal 1984-1988" compiled on instructions from the President. There is not so much as a whiff of "defense" in it. "The destruction of socialism as a socio-political system" -- that is how the main U.S. goal is formulated. The directive says in particular: "Plans must be drafted for making first use of theater nuclear forces and their possible further use...."

With this approach the whole world is viewed through the lenses of the Pentagon's sights. Instead of sovereign states there are "theaters of military operations." For instance, that is precisely what Washington and NATO Headquarters call West Europe, which, after the planned deployment of 600 new U.S. missiles there, it is planned to become the Pentagon's hostage. U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Eagleburger says for all to hear: "West Europe is the center of our global rivalry with the Soviet Union," while keeping quiet, of course, about the fact that the USSR proposes not "global rivalry" but honest and equal cooperation free from nuclear confrontation.

The U.S. militarists are no longer satisfied with creating individual "theaters of military operations" but are turning to linking them together into a single network of bridgeheads of aggression covering whole continents and oceans.

On 1 March 1980 the creation of the interventionist Rapid Deployment Force, that Pentagon gendarme strike force against the peoples struggling for freedom, was officially announced. On 1 January this year the "Central Command" began to function, within whose orbit Washington has included, without any agreement on their part, of course, 19 states -- from Egypt in the west to Pakistan in the east, from Iran in the north to Kenya in the south. It is a case of a region not far from the USSR's southern borders, on very important world communication routes.

Now everyone can see that the real goal of the Camp David deal was the desire to turn the Near East into a place where the Pentagon military can operate unhampered. Indeed they are settling there increasingly highhandedly, in an attempt to worm their way into every "crack" in order to turn the region into a bridgehead for new acts of aggressior -- initially against Syria, perhaps, and then, if that is successful, to advance still further.

In the Far East Japan and South Korea are being openly drawn into the orbit of aggressive U.S. military preparations. The so-called "Pacific community," into which they would like to draw the ASEAN countries and the ANZUS military bloc, is also planned for inclusion in the Pentagonites' plans. The U.S. side is impeding talks on transforming the Indian Ocean into a zone of peace. The U.S. Administration is nurturing plans for the region "south of the Sahara." The flywheel of aggression is also gathering momentum in the Central American region. It is also planned to draw several South American countries into NATO's sphere of activity -- it is a case of plans to create a South Atlantic bloc (SATO). The Pentagon's military activeness in Micronesia is expanding.

The global strategy of U.S. Imperialism is thus aiming to turn enormous regions of the world into a springboard for aggression against the socialist countries, the young national states and the forces of the national liberation struggle. These plans contain all the greater a threat to the cause of world peace and to man's very existence in that they are being formulated under condition of extremely dangerous levels of military confrontation.

However, the latterday claimants to world dominion are obviously overestimating their potential. It is not they who decide the main line of the modern world's development. The socialist community countries, the international communist and workers movement and the forces which have arisen from the national liberation struggle -- those are the leading motive forces of our era.

As for the Soviet Union, its policy in the international arena remains unchanged.

"...We are in favor of broad, fruitful cooperation, free from diktat and interference in other people's affairs, between all peoples of the world to their mutual advantage and to the benefit of all mankind," Comrade Yu V. Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, has said. "The Soviet Union will do everything in its power to assure a tranquil, peaceful future for the present and future generations. That is the goal of our policy and we will not deviate from it."

The Soviet peace policy is enjoying mounting support from hundreds of millions of people in the world. The peoples see in it a sensible and realistic path into a future spared from a nuclear catastrophe.

CRANSTON ANNOUNCES CANDIDACY FOR PRESIDENT

LD030255 Moscow TASS in English 1817 GMT 2 Feb 83

[Text] Washington February 2 TASS -- Senator Alan Cranston, a prominent U.S. politician, has officially announced here today his intention to run for presidency from the Democratic Party.

The 68-year-old legislator from the state of California is one of the most authoritative and influential U.S. congressmen. Elected to Senate in 1968, he is now the deputy Democratic minority leader in U.S. Senate. Alan Cranston belongs to the most vocal critics of the present administration's course of an unbridled increase in military spending and preparation for a nuclear war. He is one of the co-sponsors of the draft resolution, tabled in the Senate, on a mutual and verifiable freeze on the nuclear arsenals of the USA and the USSR, as a reflection of the massive sentiment in the country for preventing a nuclear war.

At a news conference today, Cranston said that the centrepiece of his electoral campaign will be questions of limiting the arms race, and those of freezing and then reducing nuclear arms.

SHULTZ CONCLUDES JAPANESE LEG OF FAR EAST TOUR

Military Buildup, Soviet Ties

OW021347 Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1200 GMT 1 Feb 83

[Radio Moscow Tokyo correspondent Vladimir Tsvetov's report]

[Text] Various issues remain on which Prime Minister Nakasone and President Reagan failed to reach full accord in their Washington talks. In this connection, one of the purposes of Shultz' visit to Japan is to pressure the Japanese side so as to work out solutions to these issues in accordance with the U.S. intentions. Secretary Shultz has indirectly expressed that the United States is not satisfied with the rather slow tempo of Japan's efforts to increase its military spending. He has also hinted that the United States wants Japan to speed up the implementation of its medium-term military buildup program. To this, Director General Tanikawa of the Defense Agency has given an extremely favorable answer, saying that he has full confidence in fulfilling the current 5-year defense programs ahead of schedule.

In discussing this issue brought up at Shultz' talks in Tokyo, it is necessary to take into account the contents of the annual defense report submitted to Congress by U.S. Secretary of Defense Weinberger. In this defense report, it is explicity stated that the prime objectives of the U.S. presence in East Asia and the Pacific waters are to insure defense of the sealanes and to guarantee the inviolability of the U.S. interests. It is also stressed in this defense report that part of the responsibility for defending the northwestern part of the Pacific Ocean should be taken up by Japan. In this way, everything has been brought to light.

To be more precise, while increasing its military spending, Japan is making preparations for defending the sealanes within a radius of 1,000 nautical miles from the Japanese coasts. These preparations are not made for the sake of self-defense, as has recently been pointed out by Japanese official sources, but for the sake of following in the wake of the Reagan administration and of playing up to its aggressive policy.

Another purpose of Shultz' visit to Japan is to influence the West European countries concerning the policy toward the Soviet Union and its peace proposals, by demonstrating the full accord reached between Japan and the United States on this issue. The U.S. policy of obstructing the Soviet disarmament proposals had become increasingly unpopular among its West European allies. Washington is well aware that the Reagan administration's move to seek military superiority over the Soviet Union will meet with criticisms during Vice President Bush's visit to West Europe. For this purpose, Secretary Shultz was dispatched to Asia at the same time that Vice President Bush was visiting West European countries.

While actually attempting to prevent nuclear disarmement endeavors from achieving any concrete results, Prime Minister Nakasone has given full support to Reagan's deceptive zero-option plan, which is suffering intensified criticism not only in West European countries but also within the United States.

Last of all, Secretary Shultz has made an attempt at brainwashing the Japanese business delegation to be headed by Shigeo Nagano, president of the Chamber of Commerce of Japan, which is scheduled to visit Moscow in late February. He urged the Japanese Government to link Japan's trade and economic relations with the Soviet Union, naturally including the Nagano mission's Moscow visit, with the so-called territorial issue. The Soviet Union has never changed its stand that no territorial issue exists in the Soviet-Japanese relations.

It follows that Secretary Shultz' advice indicates that the United States wants to have trade and economic exchanges between Japan and the Soviet Union completely stopped, or at least reduced as much as possible. Should this ever happen, who would be the loser? This will be easily answered if only we recall the losses suffered by Japan as a result of pursuing economic sanctions against the Soviet Union on U.S. demand under the pretext of the Afghanistan issue.

Japan: 'Bridgehead' to ROK

LD030440 Moscow Domestic Television Service in Russian 1945 GMT 2 Feb 83

[From "The World Today" program presented by Boris Kalyagin]

[Text] Two high-ranking representatives of the U.S. Administration are carrying out long journeys at the same time. In addition to Bush, U.S. Secretary of the State Shultz is making a trip. He is in the Far East. After Japan, he arrived in Beijing today. Here Shultz will have two rounds of talks with Wu Xueqian, PRC foreign minister and will meet Zhao Ziyang premier of the PRC State Council. The visit has only begun, so obviously we will be able to talk about it in more detail tomorrow.

However, for now, a few words on Shultz's sojourn in Japan. His schedule there was extremely saturated. He had talks with Prime Minister Nakasone, Foreign Minister Abe, and other members of the Cabinet and leaders of the Japanese Armed Forces. In the words of MAINICHI, the main aim of Shultz' visit was to coordinate the details reached at the recent U.S.-Japanese summit on the agreement concerning the growth of Japan's military preparations. Washington insists that the Japanese Government take on military pledges synonymous with those borne by the U.S. allies in the NATO bloc, and that it agree to place the U.S.-Japanese security treaty on the same footings as in the North Atlantic pact. The first ominous signs of this new form of relations are already evident. Prime Minister Nakasone consented to the Japanese Navy and Air Force establishing control over the international straits in the Far East and patrolling vast regions of the Pacific Ocean to a radius of up to 1,000 miles from its shores. According to U.S. assessments, the tonnage of the Japanese Navy has to double and the marine aircraft increase by 50 percent in order to carry out these tasks. It is recalled that Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution prohibits both the existence of a Japanese Army and the participation in military actions. Therefore, the Japanese troops are diffidently called self-defense forces. But the new military plans with a clearly anti-Soviet tendency in which Japan has agreed to participate, cannot, with the best of intentions, be regarded as defense measures. This is an openly aggressive program.

The attempts to knock together a military alliance between the United States, Japan and South Korea also arouses apprehension. The U.S. Armed Forces command in Japan stated that U.S. aircraft stationed in South Korea which carry nuclear weapons can use the U.S. bases on Japanese territory. However, these bases will play an important role in the U.S.-South Korean military maneuvers which have begun: Team Spirit-83. In these exercises, Japan is accorded the role of bridgehead from which the U.S. Armed Forces will carry out landing operations in South Korea. U.S. generals obviously regard Japan and South Korea as a single entity. Shultz' visit to Tokyo and then to Seoul is to ensure political support for the military raprochement of these countries. All of these military-political maneuvers which are taking place according to Washington's scenario can only lead to the dangerous intensification of tension in the Far East. They have little in common with the interests of Japan itself.

Results of Visit

LD022335 Moscow Domestic Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 2 Feb 83

[From the Vremya newscast]

[Text] The visit to Tokyo by U.S. Secretary of State Shultz ended today. His consultations with Japanese political and military leaders were devoted to the coordination of military preparations of the two countries. At a press conference at the end of the talks, Shultz confirmed, among other things, that Japan had made commitments to defend sea communications lines in the Far East. The talks in Tokyo bear witness to the fact that the Reagan administration, while working for the deployment in Western Europe of new U.S. nuclear weapons, is conducting preparations for the deployment of additional missile facilities in the Far East also. The paper MAINICHI, quoting authoritative U.S. circles, notes that during the visit by the U.S. secretary of state, questions connected with the deployment of U.S. medium-range nuclear weapons, including cruise missiles, were discussed.

JAPANESE PUBLIC UNHAPPY WITH GOVERNMENT POLICIES

LD030028 Moscow TASS in English 2046 GMT 2 Feb 83

[Text] Tokyo, February 2 TASS -- TASS correspondent Vasily Golovnin reports:

"Japanese electors express discontent with the policy of the Yasuhiro Nakasone Cabinet" -- under this headline the newspaper YOMIURI publishes today the results of the public opinion poll which was held all over the country in January. Over 40 percent of those polled declared against the government's course -- this is more than the number of those who declared in support of the Cabinet. It is indicative that even among supporters of the government of the Liberal Democratic Party, only 15 per cent declared that they have confidence in Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone.

The eloquent results of the YOMIURI public opinion poll are attributed to growing anxiety among Japanese over the course of the present-day government, the course of speeded up military preparations, and its undisguised intention to revise the peaceful provisions of the Constitution which disallows formation of armed forces in the country. The prime minister's statements on the need to turn Japan into "the unsinkable aircraft-carrier" of American strategy in the Far East and Tokyo's intention to broaden the sphere of operations of Japan's troops to a considerable part of the Pacific, writes the newspaper MAINICHI, can only add to tension in Asia. "This is not the choice that Japan should make," the newspaper ASAHI stresses today.

The zeal of the government in trying to fill the empty treasury at the expense of the working people also gives rise to public protests in the country. Social allocations are "frozen" or reduced in the draft budget for the next year. The bill, which deprives Japanese old people of free-of-charge medical attendance, entered into force yesterday. At a recent press conference Yasuhiro Nakasone made it clear that he was thinking of imposing new taxes on the population.

The electors are also displeased, YOMIURI believes, with the Cabinet's obvious unwillingness to stop corruption in the state apparatus and the Liberal Democratic Party. The declining prestige of the ruling party gives rise to profound concern of a part of its leaders. Thus, one of the leaders of the Liberal Democratic Party, former Prime Minister Takeo Miki, threatened to withdraw from the party if the government did not take effective measures to overcome the rapidly deepening crisis of confidence in Liberal Democrats.

JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER PROTECTING TANAKA

LD030637 Moscow TASS in English 0623 GMT 3 Feb 83

[Text] Tokyo February 3 TASS -- Yasuhiro Nakasone, prime minister of Japan, has actually taken under his protection the former prime minister of Japan, Kakuei Tanaka, the main defendant in the case of bribes paid by the U.S. aviation company "Lockheed" to high-ranking government officials and major businessmen of Japan. In the course of parliamentary debates, Nakasone has rejected the demand of the opposition to deprive Tanaka of his seat in parliament.

Tokishi Hirabayashi, general secretary of the Central Executive Committee of the Socialist Party of Japan, demanded in parliament the resignation of Tanaka. This demand is also contained in a resolution submitted in parliament by the Communist Party.

DPRK CHARGE CRITICIZES U.S.-ROK EXERCISES

LD021552 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 2 Feb 83

[Text] A press conference was held at the DPRK Embassy in our country today. (Li Du-rey), the DPRK charge d'affaires ad interim, familiarized journalists with the situation in the Korean peninsula.

U.S.-South Korean military exercises codenamed Team Spirit-83 being staged in South Korea, one of the biggest exercises in the past few years, he said, are aimed at hampering peaceful construction in the DPRK and the struggle of the Korean people for the withdrawal of U.S. troops from South Korea and to achieve an independent and peaceful unification of the country.

By a show of force in the region, the United States hopes to intimidate the peace-loving peoples of Asia. The charge d'affaires ad interim outlined the measures being undertaken by the government of his country in connection with the exercises.

LATE REPORT: USSR-JAPAN SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS

OW030451 Tokyo KYODO in English 0441 GMT 3 Feb 83

[Text] Tokyo, Feb 3, KYODO -- The Soviet Union is ready to consider security arrangements for Japan if Tokyo abides by its policy banning production, possession or introduction of nuclear weapons, the Soviet Communist Party has said in a letter to Japan's Democratic Socialist Party (DSP), DSP said Thursday.

The Central Committee of the Communist Party also said in the letter that the United States is responsible for increasing the danger of war and that the Soviet Union will not unilaterally declare disarmament. The letter dated January 19 was delivered to the third largest opposition party through the Soviet Embassy in Tokyo.

A DSP spokesman said the Communist Party has sent similar letters to member parties of the Socialist International based in London.

He said party officials will meet next Wednesday to discuss how they should respond to the letter.

REAGAN MEETS WITH AFGHAN 'GANG RINGLEADERS'

LD030002 Moscow TASS in English 2340 GMT 2 Feb 83

[Text] Washington February 3 TASS -- TASS correspondent Aleksandr Luti reports:

In the White House today, President Reagan met with a group of ringleaders of the bashachi gangs opposed to the DRA. After the meeting, arranged with great pomp, the U.S. chief executive ostentatiously posed with the terrorists before cameras, showing his satisfaction with the discussion held with them.

The White House enveloped in a thick veil of secrecy the contents of that provocative meeting. No one, however, is in doubt that its subject was a significant expansion by the United States of its aid to the counter-revolutionary gangs sent for punitive raids into Afghanistan from the territory of the neighbouring Pakistan. One day before meeting Reagan, the bashachi ringleaders made in U.S. Congress provocative appeals for expanding the armed subversion waged against the Afghan people, and for a broader flow of weaponry supplied to them by the USA.

This provocative demarche of the U.S. President made a mockery of his allegations about a U.S. "commitment" to settling the Afghan problem "through negotiations." The U.S. Administration is doing everything to expand the "undeclared war" against Afghanistan and to increase instability in the southern border of the USSR, which would meet the U.S. aggressive designs.

One's attention is drawn to the fact that in the United States of late there has been stepped up the hysterical anti-Afghanistan campaign. Resolutions, unexampled for their cynical and brazen tenor, have been submitted to the Senate and the House of Representatives, calling for open provision of "material assistance" to the bashmachi, so far provided through secret CIA channels. Washington is sharply stepping up ideological subversion against the DRA.

The aim of the anti-Afghan campaign is clear: It is to pile up mountains of disinformation in order to cover up the significant increase in U.S. assistance to the basmachi bringing death and destruction to Afghanistan. In the admission of the U.S. press, this "assistance" is now worth scores of millions of dollars. According to THE WASHINGTON POST, last year the supplies to the basmachi of antitank weapons, mortars, mines and grenades abruptly doubled or even trebled. The ways for shipping the weaponry, the newspaper says, have been developed by the CIA.

WASHINGTON'S 'UNDECLARED WAR' AGAINST DRA

LD030917 Moscow TASS in English 0752 GMT 3 Feb 83

[Text] Moscow February 3 TASS -- It is obvious for everyone that "it is the incessant armed raids against Afghanistan, committed by counterrevolutionary gangs from abroad, are the main factor complicating situation both in Afghanistan and around it," KRASNAYA ZVEZDA writes today.

The pace of the economic rebirth of Afghanistan and the growth of the well-being of its popular masses could be more rapid had it not been for the criminal activities of the counterrevolutionary forces operating from abroad, which hamper the creative work of the Afghan people, the newspaper points out. It has long been an open secret that the "undeclared war" against Afghanistan is inspired and organized by Washington. It is with U.S. money, that about 80 special bases and camps have been set up and are now operating in Pakistan, where bandit anti-Afghan gangs are being formed and trained before being smuggled to the Afghan territory. American instructors teach these bandits the whole number of methods how to kill people and before sending them to Afghanistan, arm them with U.S.-made weapons. As for the policy of the Soviet Union, it is clear and consistent, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA writes further. The USSR fully supports the constructive stand of the Afghan Government.

Both the Soviet Union and other socialist countries favour peaceful political settlement of the situation around Afghanistan on the basis of full and unconditional cessation and guaranteed non-resumption of armed or any other interference in its affairs, as well as the normalization of relations between Afghanistan and its neighbors.

"There is no other way but talks to lessen tension in Southwest Asia," the Soviet newspaper stresses.

SOVIET SOLDIERS KEEP AFGHAN SALANG HIGHWAY OPEN

LD021006 Moscow Domestic Television Service in Russian 1400 GMT 1 Feb 83

[Report by Dmitriy (Kharin), correspondent in Afghanistan, from the Vremya newscast]

[Text] The Salang highway connects northern and southern Afghanistan. It passes through the mountains of the Hindu Kush and the highest point of the highway is 3,663 meters above sea level. Snow does not completely melt here even during the summer, and now it is truly winter -- with freezing temperatures down to minus 30 degrees. Afghan highway service specialists are working in difficult conditions. [video shows Soviet army engineers helping Afghan road workers] The highway must operate without interruption because more goods are transported along it than along any other route in the country. In complex situations Soviet servicemen always come to the aid of their Afghan friends -- road-builders who are fulfilling their internationalist duty here in defending the gains of the April Revolution. This time, a real blizzard swirled all night and snow drifts threatened to close the route to traffic. The Soviet soldiers brought powerful snow-clearing machinery to the highway and worked shoulder to shoulder with the Afghan road workers until all the drifts had been cleared.

The highway carries thousands of trucks with foodstuffs, fuel, coal and timber. Many vehicles have come here from (Port Hayratan), on the frontier with the Soviet Union. Some trucks carry containers with labels of various countries. Afghanistan carries on a significant part of its trading links with the countries of Europe, the United States and Japan through our country's territory. This route is still known as the highway of friendship. It was built 18 years ago according to a plan by Soviet specialists. Hundreds of our engineers and workers built the highway in the difficult mountain conditions. The enemies of the April Revolution, striving to bleed the country, have frequently attempted to close the highway to traffic but all their attempts have been repulsed. The Salang route continues to operate and continues to serve the Afghan people. [video shows convoy of trucks on road]

MOSCOW TV REPORT FROM KABUL ON MILITIA, DUTIES

LD022035 Moscow Domestic Television Service in Russian 1615 GMT 30 Jan 83

[From the "International Panorama" program presented by Gennadiy Gerasimov, Vladimir Fadeyev video report from Kabul]

[Text] [Gerasimov] Afghanistan, of course, is one of the main themes of public diplomacy and here a great accumulation of lies has piled up. Let us see how life is in fact proceeding there.

[Begin Vladimir Fadeyev video recording] They say that some years ago, here in Afghanistan, such a scene would have been not only unseen, but unimaginable [camera shows militiaman directing traffic]. The people used to be afraid of the police because a policeman was a symbol of arbitrariness, a defender of the interests of the rich and the feudalists. Today, the people's militia of Afghanistan, or the sarandoy as it is called here, is an organization born of the April Revolution. It is of the same flesh and blood as the people and serves the people.

The sarandoy is on patrol day and night. In ordinary cars like these, they frequently find weapons, contraband, subversive literature and drugs [camera shows militiamen checking cars and contents]. The counterrevolution uses every opportunity to prevent the people from building a peaceful life. Members of the sarandoy have to be particularly vigilant and must have a professional instinct in order to protect the country's peaceful daily life. In this gaily, festively painted truck with a Pakistani license plate, militiamen of the Criminal Investigation Department discovered a large haul of drugs behind the driver's seat. In this vehicle, a secret hiding place was found in the roof. [camera shows drugs being removed from first a truck and then a car] For the ringleaders of the counterrevolutionary bands established in neighboring Pakistan, the drug trade has become one of the main sources of enrichment. This huge collection of deadly poisons, each gram of which is worth a lot of money, has been taken by the sarandoy in recent months.

The activities of the Afghan internal affairs organs are varied as Comrade Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the Revolutionary Council, stressed in his speech at the sarandoy party aktiv meeting. Today, when internal and external reaction is waging an undeclared war against the DRA, the organs of internal affairs have become an integral part of the republic's Armed Forces. [camera shows Karmal speaking at meeting]

Participation in military operations to defeat the bandit formations is a primary task of the sarandoy. The sarandoy today includes major military units [formirovaniya] equipped with modern small arms, artillery and armored vehicles [bronetekhnika]; everything necessary to wage battle in the most complex conditions. We visited one of these units. At the time this film was taken [camera shows recruits], recruits were coming in and looking at the faces of these various people dressed in the traditional Afghan clothing, we thought what a long course they have to go through before they become real fighting men; a course of hard soldiers' work, daily training, practice and genuine alerts, a course described in this favorite soldiers' song. Greetings, soldiers of the revolution! Every day, in wind and sun, your faces shine with sweat. Your work is arduous but your will is firm to defend your homeland. You march through the land with glory. The people sing songs about you. Your strength and firmness are great. Your spirit rises like the mountains to the stars.

Here in this unit, as in any other, the soldiers learn not only how to hold weapons and drive army vehicles. A sense of class-consciousness is inculcated here and the ability to discern, sometimes in difficult situations in life, who is a friend and who is an enemy. [camera shows Afghan soldier] A machinegunner (Djura) has just come back with his comrades from a military operation.

[(Djura) in Pashto fading into Russian translation] It was a hard battle near the mountain village of Shewaki. In battle, we destroyed several dozen of the enemy and captured a large quantity of weapons. Of course, we did not get away without losses either. But we are not to be frightened by that. We are fighting for the honor of our people, for our dear ones.

My father is a simple peasant. My grandfather was a peasant too. But neither the one nor the other ever had a scrap of ground of his own. The revolution gave our family land. All my relatives are peasants too. But my brother — here he is in this photograph -- has gone over to the bandits. I am convinced that he has been deceived. I believe that if we should meet, I would be able to persuade him of his error.

[Fadeyev] This is not a simple situation, as you see nor is it an exceptional one either. It is known that not all those in the bands are there because of their political convictions. Many, very many, have been drawn into them by deception and by force.

One should not forget that more than (?90) percent of the country's population is illiterate after all, in these conditions, the sarandoy-soldier is a political fighter too. The road to this arduous responsibility begins with simple lessons in literacy. To teach each soldier to be literate is the primary duty of the sarandoy. [Camera shows soldiers being taught to read and write]

The revolution looks with confidence to its future. The people advancing into this future must be literate and politically conscious. Activity in these respects, too, is inculcated in each fighting man. Here, as you see, the soldiers are helping the villagers to put in order buildings damaged by the bandits and to build new housing. They frequently have to be both agitators, propagandists and distributors of books among the population. The people in the remote villages learn the truth about the April Revolution and the aims and tasks of the people's government from them.

The daily life of the Afghan sarandoy does not form part of our story. This life is at times complex and harsh. But the main point is that its authority among the Afghan working people is growing because all its heroic labor today is devoted to the cause of defending the achievements of the people. It is surely no coincidence that the word sarandoy translates as protector. Protector of order, peace and calm. Protector of human happiness. A word with a good meaning and a lofty significance. [end video recording]

MARCHUK MEETS WITH INDIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

LD271752 Moscow TASS in English 1644 GMT 27 Jan 83

[Text] New Delhi January 27 TASS -- Guriy Marchuk, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, chairman of the Soviet State Committee for Science and Technology, in India to attend Days of Soviet Science and Engineering, today met with India's Foreign Affairs Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao. In the course of their conversation they had a useful exchange of views on ways of the further expansion of Indo-Soviet scientific and technical ties. It was stressed that these ties are dynamically and successfully developing, have good prospects and reflect the mutually beneficial nature of versatile Indo-Soviet cooperation which meets the interests of the peoples of the two countries, the cause of the peace throughout the world.

IZVESTIYA VIEWS FRG ELECTION PROSPECTS

PM030935 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 2 Feb 83 Morning Edition p 5

[Correspondent Korolev "Letter from Bonn": "One Month to the Elections"]

[Text] The shortest and perhaps fiercest election campaign is now being launched in the FRG. Exactly 2 months separate the president's decision to hold early Bundestag elections from the 6 March 1983 polling date. In accordance with the country's Constitution, that is the maximum time within which early elections must be held after the decision has been made.

The coming elections are of fundamental significance for the country's political parties and groupings. Having come to power last fall after a 13-year gap, the Christian Democratic Union/Christian Social Union [CDU/CSU] is naturally striving to secure the voters' support and thereby demonstrate that the change of cabinet was no chance event. The Social Democratic Party of Germany [SPD] is trying to prove that it lost power not through the will of the voters but as the result of a betrayal by its coalition partner. For the Free Democratic Party [FDP] the coming elections are a question of the party's continued existence. For the first time the "Greens," a party which unites environmentalists, are really in contention for Bundestag seats.

Hence the unprecedented keenness of the political struggle. The parties are allocating vast financial resources for the election campaign. The CDU is allocating DM30 million, the CSU DM6 million, the SPD DM19 million, and the FDP DM10 million. The party leaders are taking part almost continuously in pre-election events.

The SPD was first to hold its election congress. The FDP congress was held 29-30 January. The CDU is conducting its election campaign according to a special plan. There will be no party congress but there will be regional conferences and meetings for groups of the population and on the most topical problems.

The election campaign centers on questions which no party can avoid. They are the questions of preserving peace, reviving the economic situation and combatting unemployment. The discussion has centered on the new peace initiatives in the sphere of strengthening peace and security put forward in the speech of Yu.V. Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and in the Warsaw Pact states' Political Declaration.

Juggling with the words "peace," "security," and "military equilibrium," the CDU/CSU bloc has adopted a course of defending the U.S. position on disarmament questions and is striving by every means to prove that any deviation from the "zero option" proposed by the Reagan administration at the Geneva talks is not in the interests of FRG security.

It would be wrong, of course, to claim that everyone in the CDU/CSU thinks and argues that way. The U.S.-style "zero option" is an official stance and a propaganda screen with no unity behind it. Thus while some members of the CDU board, recognizing the Soviet Union's right to take French and UK missiles into account at the disarmament talks, conclude that a compromise solution must be adopted, Franz-Josef Strauss, who also stresses the unrealistic nature of the "zero option," advocates the unconditional deployment of the new U.S. medium-range nuclear missiles in Western Europe.

Essentially, FDP leader H.-D. Genscher also holds the CDU/CSU leadership's stance on the issue of deploying the new U.S. medium-range nuclear missiles. Puting it bluntly that is not a very advantageous course on the eve of the elections if you bear in mind that, according to public opinion poll figures published in the FRG press, 54 percent of CDU/CSU voters and 70 percent of FDP voters advocate that the deployment of the Pershings and Tomahawks in the FRG be postponed.

From the election congress rostrum in Dortmund, H.-J. Vogel, the SPD's candidate for the chancellorship, appealed to the voters to use their votes to authorize or even instruct the SPD to do its utmost on the FRG's behalf to prevent the deployment of the new U.S. medium-range missiles on the country's territory. The SPD leaders support a serious approach to the Soviet peace initiatives and demand constructive responses from the United States. At the same time, the SPD stance contains much that is vague and contradictory.

Another equally important theme in the current election campaign is the FRG's economic situation and the problem of combatting the growth in unemployment. The voters find it virtually impossible to discern what economic strategies are outlined by those parties hitherto represented in the Bundestag in order to overcome the economic crisis and alleviate social conflicts. As the weekly DIE ZEIT rightly notes, this is intensifying the suspicion that even the parties themselves do not know the remedy.

In fact, it is now a question of how to reduce or at any rate slow down the rapid growth in unemployment under conditions which, according to predictions for the eighties, do not offer the capitalist world any firm hopes of an improvement in the situation. On its arrival in power, the CDU/CSU-FDP coalition, of course, placed the entire blame for the economic crisis and unemployment on the SPD. But the Kohl-Genscher cabinet failed to halt the negative phenomena in the economy and the social sphere. Furthermore, the prospect of an escalation in them has emerged. The expected revival of economic activity in the country has not occurred and the hopes of a market revival have become increasingly vague. Unemployment, the main scourge of FRG working people, continues to rise at a faster pace than ever. For the first time in the FRG's history, there is a trend toward an absolute decline in the living standards of broad strata of the population.

The explanation is very simple. With the aim of "improving" state finances, the CDU/CSU-FDP government opted to cut budget appropriations for social needs. New legislation freed the hands of landlords, who have now been given the opportunity to inflate still further the already exorbitantly high rents. There has been a review of the tax system, as a result of which entrepreneurs have been the only winners.

At the same time, the forecasts of the labor market situation indicate a further growth in unemployment, which in the near future could reach a new record level -- 2.5 million.

It is generally recognized that for the FDP the coming elections are a question of its future fate. The change of coalition partners has resulted in the party losing a number of prominent and active figures. Furthermore, it has lost the confidence of many of its traditional voters, many of whom are still seeking an answer to the question of how it was that the FDP representatives in the posts of foreign minister and economics minister, who quite recently were sharply critical of the CDU/CSU's foreign and economic policies, overnight suddenly became defenders of that course and, what is more, retained their portfolios in the government now headed by the Christian Democrat Kohl?

The voters' reaction to the FDP "turncoats" was indicative during the land elections in Hessen and Hamburg, where the Free Democrats found themselves outside the Landtag and city assembly, having failed to collect the requisite number of votes. The party was effectively split. Now the FDP will have to make considerable efforts to avoid being thrown out of the Bundestag.

At its election congress in Dortmund, the SPD put foward a program according to which it intends to repeal all the present government's decisions aimed at dismantling the working people's social gains. However, not even the SPD has any clear ideas on ways of overcoming the difficulties in the country's economy.

The clearest and most consistent stance in the election struggle is taken by the German Communist Party.

The brief but clear slogan "jobs instead of missiles" reflects West German Communists' main aims in the period ahead. With honest and fair slogans, the FRG's Communists are entering the unequal election battle in a country where only quite recently Communist Party activists were thrown into prison and where even now its supporters are threatened with dismissal from work and other trouble. Nevertheless, the FRG's Communists are fully resolved under these conditions to wage the struggle for the interests of the country's broad working masses.

SHALAYEV-LED AUCCTU DELEGATION MEETS FRENCH TU

LD030038 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0620 GMT 2 Feb 83

[Text] Paris, 2 Feb (TASS) -- A meeting of the visiting Soviet trade union delegation headed by Stepan Shalayev, chairman of the AUCCTU, with the trade union aktiv of the General Labor Confederation [CGT], Paris industrial region, turned into a demonstration of friendship and solidarity between the French working people and the working people of the Soviet Union.

Welcoming the Soviet delegation, Henri Krasucki, general secretary of the CGT, said in particular: The French working class remembers and will never forget that 40 years ago at Stalingrad the Soviet Army dealt a crushing defeat to the hordes of the fascist barbarians. Paying the price in the blood and lives of its soldiers it did not just defend the world's first state of workers and peasants: The victory was of decisive significance for the destiny of Europe and the whole world."

Henri Krasucki called for the solidarity between the French working people and the Soviet working people to be consolidated. "The bases for this solidarity, he stressed, are great common ideals and goals: the struggle for peace, for the interests of the working people, for freedom from capitalist exploitation, liberation of peoples from imperialist oppression."

Addressing those assembled, S. Shalayev noted that 'Soviet trade unions and the CGT are linked by old internationalist relations of brotherhood that began to take shape in the first days of the formation of the republic of the soviets. Our fraternal cooperation grew stronger in the joint struggle against fascism, against the forces of imperialism and reaction, in the struggle for peace throughout the world."

In the present situation which has come about in the world, emphasized the Soviet trades union leader, "it is especially necessary to increase the struggle for peace, disarmament and detente. With this aim in mind, it is necessary to strengthen trust and friendship between the working peoples of different countries; to expand and strengthen links, and cooperation between them through mass organisations, the trade unions, on a class, anti-imperialist basis and on the principles of proletarian internationalism."

U.S. 'THREATENING' TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER TO W. EUROPE

LD022110 Moscow TASS in English 1955 GMT 2 Feb 83

[Text] Moscow February 2 TASS -- TASS commentator Oleg Morgachev writes:

According to a report of the British FINANCIAL TIMES, the U.S. Administration, through the Department of Defence, has threatened its West European allies with discontinuance of shipments of high U.S. technology if progress fails to be achieved in working out a common trade and economic policy vis-a-vis the USSR and the other socialist countries.

Having suffered a debate in its sanctions against the West European companies supplying equipment for the Siberia-Western Europe gas pipeline, the U.S. is trying to obtain from its allies a "united stand" on the question of trade with the Soviet Union. This stand, in the U.S. opinion, should include much more tougher rules for selling, though the COCOM [Coordinating Committee for East-West Trade Policy] mechanism, products regarded by Washington as "strategic", a ban on sales of oil and gas equipment, a substantial restriction of the volume and the conditions for granting credits, reduction in the purchases of energy raw materials in the Soviet Union, etc.

The restrictions imposed embrace practically all the principal spheres and forms of Western Europe's trade with the Soviet Union.

Sober-minded politicians and representatives of the Western business community are sufficiently aware of the total ineffectiveness of the policy of economic sanctions against the USSR. According to the LOS ANGELES TIMES, the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency has completed a number of studies which conclude that the USSR can ride out absence of imports much easier than any other country. The Japanese newspaper DAILY YOMIURI, with reference to U.S. State Department documents, wrote that if in the coming two years the countries of the West reduce by half the exports of their products to the USSR, the decrease in the Soviet GNP increment will be only one seventh of the decrease in GNP increment in those countries. To this, one might add that orders placed by the USSR and other socialist countries in Western Europe provide jobs for over two million people. Besides, the future of whole sectors of West European industry, like, for instance, the manufacture of steel pipes or of complete sets of equipment for chemical enterprises, hinges on these orders.

Speaking of Washington, it looks as if it counts not so much on "complicating" the life of the USSR, as on undermining the competitivity of its principal trading competitors. It is no coincidence that the strongly-worded demands to curtail trade with the Soviet Union are heard against the backdrop of unending "wars" waged by the U.S. against Western Europe: the "war of interest rates", the "steel war", the "farming war" and others. These "wars" have already seriously harmed the West European countries economically. In addition to this, the USA would like to deprive West European firms of the benefits accruing to them from their dynamically developing trade with the Soviet Union and other socialist countries, which is now worth up to 60 billion dollars, which is ten times more than the value of the "Eastern" trade of the United States itself.

If the Europeans refuse to bow to the diktat, the USA is now threatening them with a fresh blow by limiting their access to the advanced U.S. Technology.

PORTUGUESE PARTIES FORM PRE-ELECTION ALLIANCE

LD030030 Moscow TASS in English 2149 GMT 2 Feb 83

[Text] Lisbon February 2 TASS -- The leaders of the Portuguese Communist Party and the Portuguese Democratic Movement met here today for a detailed discussion of the participation of the two parties in the forthcoming early parliamentary elections, called by President of Portugal General Ramalho Eanes to overcome an active political crisis in the country.

In a communique circulated after the meeting, the Portuguese Communist Party and the Portuguese Democratic Movement stressed the positive experience of cooperation of the two parties during the previous elections, and announced the decision to set up the election bloc -- the alliance for Popular Unity.

Both parties, the communique notes, pointed out that the forthcoming election campaign is of exceptional significance for protecting the gains of the people. It is called upon to pave the way for a democratic change in the national policy.

GREECE WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN NATO EXERCISES

LD021140 Moscow TASS in English 1046 GMT 2 Feb 83

[Text] Athens February 2 TASS -- Greece will not take part in NATO's Winter-83 exercises to be held towards the end of this month, a spokesman for the Greek Government said here.

It was expected earlier that four Greek naval ships would take part in the exercises.

PAPER DECRIES PLANS TO BUILD NATO BASE IN SICILY

LD030945 Moscow TASS in English 0722 GMT 3 Feb 83

[Text] Moscow February 3 TASS -- "If the aggressiveness of the foreign-political and military-strategic actions of the United States and NATO increases, the Mediterranean may become one of the most explosive regions in the world", SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA writes today.

In its international review the newspaper points out that Comiso in Southern Sicily, the site chosen by the Italian Government for the construction of another NATO missile base, may soon become one of the most dangerous seats of nuclear threat. It is to be fitted out with new American nuclear weapons. Recently the Italian press reported the Italian Government's willingness to deploy in Sicily not only 112 cruise missiles but also Pershing-2 missiles which had not been mentioned so far.

"There is no doubt", SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA writes, "that this is a dangerous step which will fundamentally alter the state of affairs throughout the region. Firstly, it will create a threat to the population of Sicily and adjacent areas.

"Secondly", SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA continues, "the route of the flight, for instance, of cruise missiles aimed at a "potential enemy" of NATO, will inevitably cross the air space of a number of Mediterranean and Balkan countries. This will not only infringe their sovereignty, but also will create a direct threat to their national security, hence, to peace in the region. Thirdly, the deployment of nuclear missiles in Comiso creates a new situation for the European countries of the Mediterranean region.

"Moreover the strengthening of the United States and NATO nuclear missile potential as a result of the emergence of the Comiso base will further stimulate the arms race in that region, will complicate the prospect of demilitarization of the Mediterranean. Lastly, the setting up of the Comiso base, having altered the military-strategic situation in the region, will strengthen the nuclear threat not only to adjacent states of the Mediterranean, and the Balkan, but also to countries of northern Africa and the Middle East, since they will be in the zone that can be hit by American medium-range missiles. Moreover, these missiles can become a tool of nuclear blackmail against them".

The newspaper emphasizes that the Soviet Union "consistently upholds the idea of creating zones of peace in various regions of the world, including the Mediterranean".

ISRAELI BUILDUP IN AL-BIQA' THREAT TO SYRIA

Begin 'War Hysteria'

PM021137 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 2 Feb 83 First Edition p 5

[Correspondent R. Moseyev report: "Israeli Military Whips Up Tension"]

[Text] Damascus, 1 Feb -- Tel Aviv is continuing to build up its forces in Lebanon's Al-Biqa' Valley toward Syria. Yesterday Israeli tanks, armored carriers, artillery and mortar batteries, ammunition and equipment were transferred to forward positions in the region of the population centers of Kifrayya, Kafr Quq, 'Ayn 'Arab, Mdukha, Jubb Jannin and others. A vast quantity has now been concentrated in the southern Al-Biqa' Valley. The network of fortifications is being expanded there.

Israel's forward positions are now effectively just 25 km from Damascus. The Israelis have installed an early warning station and radar for ground and air surveillance on Mount Al-Baruk which is of great strategic significance. And reconnaissance flights by Israeli aircraft and helicopters are continuing along the line of confrontation with the Syrian subunits belonging to the inter-Arab peacekeeping force in Lebanon. In recent days the Israelis have been firing incessantly on Syrian units in a clear attempt to provoke armed conflict. According to Israeli reports, air forces are being trained, bombing raids on mock versions of major Syrian installations are being practiced and assaults on [simulated] Damascus suburbs are being rehearsed in the Negev Desert.

The intensive militarist preparations are being accompanied by a fanning of war hysteria. As before, the tone is being set by Begin, head of the Israeli Government, and Sharon, the defense minister. It was they who recently spearheaded a campaign of blackmail and intimidation against the Syrians over the legitimate steps taken by Damascus to strengthen the country's defense capability, particularly its air defense facilities. As political observers including those in the West note, these measures have been brought about primarily by Israel's increased aggressiveness toward Syria, which is pursuing a firm anti-imperialist course and is striving for a just and all-embracing settlement of the Near East conflict.

Only those who are contemplating aggression and are deliberately trying to secure their own military advantage can kick up a fuss over such purely defensive measures. This is what Tel Aviv is striving for with U.S. support.

The Near East situation, which has been enflamed to excess, is causing grave concern in Syria, Lebanon and other Arab countries.

"A real threat of Israeli attack hangs over our country," Faruq ash-Shar', Syrian secretary of state for foreign affairs, told your correspondent. "The next act in the Near East tragedy could break out at any moment through the fault of the Israeli leaders."

In this context, the Syrian Government has sent a letter to the UN secretary general and the UN Security Council chairman with an appeal to prevent the dangerous development of events and curb the outrageous aggressors.

At the same time, many Syrian and Lebanese figures with whom I have had occasion to talk are noting that the latest outbreak of Israeli extremism is conditioned primarily by confidence of Israeli extremism is conditioned primarily by confidence in the U.S. Administration's full support.

Washington is now pretending to be worried by Begin and Sharon's adventurism, and official American propaganda does not tire of reiterating the existing U.S.-Israeli "disagreements" on the approach to certain Near East problems.

Washington probably fears that the Israeli leaders' brazen actions could discredit the United States once and for all and seriously harm American-Arab relations. However, as the Damascus newspaper TISHRIN writes, it is not the so-called "contradictions" but the agreement on strategic cooperation which reflects the true essence of U.S.-Israeli ties. The paper observes that Washington is nurturing plans for the expansion of its military and political domination over the Near East and as previously is putting its main stake on Israel, whose role is to serve as the U.S. military cudgel in the struggle against the Arab peoples.

The peoples of the world well remember that Washington provided Israel with exactly the same propaganda, diplomatic and military screen during the attack on Lebanon. The United States, while expressing hypocritical "anxiety" over peace in the Near East, has played out the Camp David farce, removed Egypt from the ranks of those resisting Tel Aviv's aggression and ensured a tranquil rear for the Israeli military, which has flung itself into new adventures. The nightmares of Beirut, the slaughter in Sabra and Shatila and the murder of thousands and thousands of Lebanese and Palestinians are the fruits of American connivance with Israel. The whole world was shaken by the tragedy of Lebanon. Mankind's conscience cannot allow it to be repeated on the soil of Syria.

'Saber-Rattling' at Syria's Door

PM031033 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 3 Feb 83 First Edition p 5

[Correspondent R. Moseyev report: "The Vigilance of Damascus"]

[Text] It is less than 25 km from the Lebanese village of Dayr al-'Ashayir, in the Al-Biqa' Valley, to the western suburbs of the Syrian capital. Its inhabitants used to joke: "Throw a stone to the east and you will hit Damascus." Today Dayr al-'Ashayir is in Israeli hands. After seizing it last summer, they turned it into a strongpoint on the Syrian border.

In essence the Israelis have created a "dead zone" all along the Syrian border and the line of confrontation with the inter-Arab forces in the northern part of Al-Biqa'. They are driving out the Lebanese civilian population and turning the abandoned homes into headquarters, barracks and other military facilities. The main bulk of the Israeli army in Lebanon, which is many thousands strong and armed to the teeth, is concentrated on the territory of Al-Biqa'.

"Reports coming in from the Al-Biqa' Valley," Turki Saqr, chief editor of the Syrian newspaper AL-BA'TH told your correspondent, "testify to large-scale Israeli militarist preparations, which are fraught with extremely dangerous consequences. The enemy is engaging in saber-rattling at our very door. He could attack at any moment. Proof of this is also provided by the inflammatory statements coming from Tel Aviv day by day. The Zionists have unleashed fierce psychological warfare and are trying to intimidate the Syrian people.

The topic of the Israeli danger in the alarming situation which has now become established in the Near East has become a constant theme these days in the Syrian press and in radio and television broadcasts. The Israeli ruling circles and those who are behind them, balancing on the brink of war, the Syria TIMES writes, would like to break the Syrians' will in the struggle for a just resolution of the Near East problem and against imperialist plans in the region. They are counting on forcing the Syrian Arab Republic to renounce the legitimate demands for the liberation of the Golan Heights, which belong to Syria from time immemorial and were seized in 1967, and to clear the way for the establishment of dominance over the occupied Lebanese territory.

One purpose of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon is to weaken Syria's military might, thereby eliminating a serious obstacle in the path of the implementation of the Zionist-imperialist plot in the Near East. This was stated in parliament by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Syrian deputy prime minister and foreign minister. He stated that Syria is opposed to the division of Lebanon and in favor of its independence and its liberation from the Israeli occupation, rejects the terms being imposed on Lebanon by Israel and calls on Arab governments to support the Lebanese leadership in the cause of opposing the aggressor's designs.

The Arab peoples' just struggle, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam noted, meets with support from the international community and the socialist community countries, with the friendly Soviet Union in the vanguard, and from all honest people in the world.

...In day-to-day life in Damascus today there is an acute sense of that alertness which occurs when the enemy is at hand and is preparing to strike. There are many people in military uniforms in the streets. State and public buildings are under constant guard.

At many enterprises and construction sites in Damascus and other cities, rallies and meetings are being held at present in connection with the situation which has arisen around the republic. At these meetings attention is drawn to the need for still greater cohesion among the masses. At the same time emphasis is placed on the need to continue the rapid development of the national economy and the consolidation of social achievements. Here great significance is attached in Syria to the development of friendly relations with those countries -- first and foremost the Soviet Union -- which support Syria in its struggle against Israel's annexationist plans and against the Camp David deal.

Syrians are fully aware of the degree of threat hanging over their country, Yusuf Faysal, deputy general secretary of the Syrian Communist Party Central Committee, stressed when he received me. In these conditions one of the main tasks is to strengthen the domestic front and mobilize the masses in the face of the Israeli danger. Progressive forces are actively participating in achieving that goal. In the present complex situation a tremendous role must be played in mobilzing the people, Faysal stressed, by the national progressive front, which unites the ruling Ba'th Party, the Syrian Communist Party and other organizations. Syrian Communists and all Syria's progressive forces are resolutely opposed to American imperialism's plans in the Near East.

That is the mood in Damascus today: The Syrian people, to whose lot many grave trials have fallen in the past, are prepared to oppose a new onslaught by the forces of imperialism and Zionism.

'Prelude to Aggressive Act'

PM021059 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 2 Feb 83 First Edition p 5

[P. Demchenko "International Notes": "The Aggressors' Crude Provocations"]

[Text] The reports coming from the Near East in recent days have each been more alarming than the last. The already tense situation in that long-suffering part of the globe is once again growing more strained, with the threat of a new explosion. This time the clouds are hanging over Syria.

Israeli Government leaders are making open threats against that Arab country. According to Syrian Foreign Affairs Minister 'Abd al'Halim Khaddam, Israel constantly resorts to such aggressive statements before unleashing armed provocation against a neighboring state. That was the case before the invasion of Lebanon and the occupation of that country. That was the case before the raid on the nuclear research center near Baghdad -- a center designed for peaceful purposes. By all appearances the same is happening now: The belligerent noises from Tel Aviv are nothing but a prelude to an aggressive act which is being prepared against Syria.

But it is not only a question of verbal threats. The Israeli command is concentrating its tank and artillery units against Syrian troops in Lebanon's Al-Biqa' Valley, provoking clashes with them and carrying out intensive reconnaissance operations. Let us recall that, after attacking Lebanon last June, Israel not only occupied its capital but basically opened a new front against Syria in the Al-Biqa' Valley. Since then Tel Aviv has tried to keep that front "hot" all the time, constantly redeploying its forces, sending in reinforcements and creating long-term positions there so as to exert constant pressure on Syria.

It must not be forgotten that Al-Biqa' is a matter of 40-45 km from Damascus. So it is understandable that the Syrian Government should be concerned about the events taking place in Lebanon and the Israelis' attempt to prolong their occupation of that country. Moreover, it is no secret that one purpose of the attack on Lebanon was indeed to attempt to weaken the Syrian Army, force Damascus to reconcile itself to the loss of the Golan Heights, seized back in 1967, and make it more complaisant toward Tel Aviv and Washington. This aim was not achieved: The Syrian leadership is defending with dignity its country's sovereignty and its right to implement an independent foreign policy, and it will not be reconciled to the loss of the Golan Heights, so they are shaking their fists at Syria.

The immediate pretext was measures to strengthen the country's air defense. Think about it: Syria is concerned for the air defense of its own territory, its cities and villages, which have already been subjected to Israeli bombings more than once. Is not that the right of a sovereign country? It has no intention of attacking anyone. Where is the danger to others?

But a terrible din was created over precisely this. That is the logic of the aggressor -- everything is turned upside down. And the explanation is quite simple: The Israeli ruling circles, Begin, Sharon and their like are pursuing a criminal anti-Arab polity, seeking to keep neighboring peoples in a state of fear of their war machine. For many years this course has not only been to the liking of ruling circles in Washington, it has even been encouraged and guided by them. Vast sums are annually handed over to Tel Aviv through official channels in the form of free aid, loans or increasingly sophisticated weapons. Hundreds of millions of dollars are collected in the United States and other Western countries by Zionist organizations. This year alone Israel is receiving aid from the United States to the tune of more than $2.5 billion. The country will receive about half a billion from various Zionist organizations.

Having thus assumed responsibility for turning Israel into the biggest military force in the Near East, the United States bears full responsibility for its client's aggressive sorties too, although people across the ocean are now talking a great deal about Washington's "peacemaking mission" in the Near East.

Official spokesmen say, for instance, that they are "restraining" Israel from attacking Syria. U.S. President R. Reagan stated recently that the resolution of the Near East problem is a priority task for him, and so forth. Many other examples could be cited of how the American Administration would like to dissociate its policy from Tel Aviv's aggressive course in the Arabs' eyes.

But the entire course of events in the Near East indicates that the United States is gambling on Israel's military might. It needs Israel to exert constant pressure on Arab states and to implement certain anti-Soviet plans. Tel Aviv's aggressiveness is largely the result of the United States' own course, and the Zionists are brazen because they have patrons and support across the ocean. And as the Arab proverbs say, how can a tree's shadow be straight, when the trunk is crooked?

At the same time the United States is striving with a persistence worthy of better application to strengthen its positions in the Near East and its war machine there. In recent weeks it has particularly stepped up its activeness in the Near East, Southwest Asia and the Indian Ocean, and it seeks to create new military bases there.

Not without Israel's help, the Pentagon has managed to deploy subunits first on the Sinai Peninsula, then in Lebanon. The decision to create a so-called "U.S. Central Command," whose actions will extend over a vast area including many Arab countries, was announced recently. This militarist line in itself encourages the Israeli bosses to make sorties against neighboring countries, including Syria.

The aggressors and their patrons should remember the lessons of history, which teach that gambling on force arouses the peoples' hatred, cannot break their will and is ultimately doomed to inevitable failure.

Syria Appeals to UN

LD031032 Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1500 GMT 2 Feb 83

[A. Zlatorunskiy commentary: "Threatening Syria"]

[Text] Increasingly disturbing news is coming from the Middle East to the effect that the Israeli invaders are massing the striking units of their forces in the Al-Biqa' Valley near the Syrian borders. In fact Israeli tanks and mechanized infantry have arrived at the borders in order to deal a blow to Syria. The positions of the Syrian forces in Lebanon -- these forces are part of the Arab deterrent force there -- are being regularly exposed to Israeli shelling; the Israeli Air Force carries out reconnaissance flights. In short all facts indicate that Tel Aviv is prepared to embark on fresh aggression on Syria. Begin and Sharon are threatening to punish Syria because it has decided to reinforce its defense power, in particular its air defense -- the right of any sovereign state.

However it is a very well-known fact that Syria threatens nobody, and that the real reasons for Israel's war preparations and for stirring up a fresh wave of military hysteria in the Middle East are something else: The primary reason is the failure of the Israeli-U.S. Middle East policy, the policy which both Washington and Tel Aviv are exercising within the framework of the U.S.-Israeli agreement on strategic cooperation.

Reagan's plan, which seeks to support Israel's occupation of Arab territories and in particular Palestinian territory, does not enjoy the support of the Arab world; the plan also seeks to expand the U.S. military and political presence in the Middle East. Israel has become involved in Lebanon; instead of the picnic promised by Begin and Sharon to the Israeli Army, the Israeli Army has fought a bloody and costly war, the end of which cannot be seen. All attempts to impose capitulation on Lebanon and to make this country join the Camp David deal caravan have failed. At the same time the wave of indignation at the actions of the Zionists and their American protectors is not confined to Arab countries; it has spread to the whole world.

Thus the occupation of Lebanon has turned into a grave political defeat for Israel and the United States. Those who today are planning to deal a blow to Syria intend to teach a lesson to this Arab country that is firmly pursuing an anti-imperialist policy and is playing an important role in the struggle for a just and stable peace in the Middle East. However, those who are making these plans are not taking into consideration the real nature of matters, and in the first place the fact that dealing a blow to Syria will bring the entire Middle East to the brim of a vast armed conflict.

Today many Arab countries are declaring solidarity with Syria. Syria has sincere friends not only in the Arab world but in other countries too. The Zionist leading figures who have been intoxicated by war should reach a certain conclusion from the events in Lebanon, but instead they are thirsty for fresh military adventures. Responsibility for these actions falls on the shoulder of Reagan's administration, which has increased its military aid to Israel after the aggression on Lebanon and has guaranteed political protection for Israeli piracy.

Reagan and his supporters have declared by words only the need to look for a political solution to the Middle East issue, but in reality they are working for the militarization of the Middle East and the regions near it on a large scale. A network of U.S. military bases and other military plans are being created. The Rapid Deployment Force has been set up and armed with the most modern weapons, and recently the Central Command was set up so as to coordinate the actions of the U.S. military in the Arabian Gulf, Indian Ocean and Middle East regions. All this is but a fertile ground to [word indistinct] Israel's aggressive actions. The Syrian Government has appealed to the UN with regard to the danger threatening it; it calls for checking the aggressor so as to avoid a grave development of events. The most important duty of the international community is to respond to this appeal.

SAUDI KING'S CALL FOR ARAB UNITY NOTED

LD030956 Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1530 GMT 2 Feb 83

[From the "Window on the Arab World" program by Aleksandr Timoshkin]

[Text] King Fahd, monarch of the Jordanian Hashemite Kingdom [as heard], has announced his country's adherence to the resolutions adopted unanimously at the recent Fes summit conference, in which the Arabs declared their determination to struggle together for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Arab territories occupied in 1967 and for the restoration of the Palestinian people's full national rights, including this right to establish their own independent state.

In the opinion of observers King Fahd's statement at the Saudi cabinet meeting on Tuesday must be considered an answer to Tel Aviv's attempts to cement firmly the fruits of its aggression against the Arabs by all means. King Fahd's statement is considered at the same time a call to Arabs to prevent the splitting of their ranks and to concentrate their strength and joint revenues for striving to implement the Fes resolutions. Talk about this vital necessity for the Arabs is now growing and increasing in many Arab countries. The main slogan now is that Arabs should be united in the struggle against the policy of aggression and usurpation. In this respect the patriotic forces in the Arab world recall that Arabs have achieved considerable victories over the aggressive forces of imperialism and Zionism when acting as a solid united front.

PRAVDA REPORTS ON BRUTENTS LEBANON TALKS

PM030911 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 2 Feb 83 First Edition p 4

[Tass report: "Arrival of CPSU Delegation"]

[Text] Beirut, 1 Feb -- A CPSU delegation headed by K.N. Brutents, deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee International Department has arrived here at the invitation of the Lebanese Communist Party Central Committee and the progressive socialist party of Lebanon [PSP] leadership.

The delegation was received by W. Jumblatt, chairman of the PSP. The sides discussed the situation in the Near East and particularly in Lebanon.

During a talk then held with PSP leaders in an atmosphere of complete mutual understanding, the CPSU delegation was informed about the party's struggle for the country's liberation from the Israeli occupiers, for the restoration of Lebanon's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity and for its democratic development.

The CPSU delegation declared its support for the just, courageous struggle which the PSP and the Lebanese people are waging against the Israeli aggression and the immutability of the Soviet Union's stand in advocating the immediate, total withdrawal of the Israeli interventionist troops from all Lebanese territory as required by the UN Security Council resolutions.

IZVESTIYA REPORT ON 'ARAFAT MOSCOW PRESS CONFERENCE

PM021237 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Jan 83 Morning Edition p 5

[Report by L. Pavlov: "Thanks for Support"]

[Text] We encountered on the part of the Soviet leadership a positive response and complete understanding of all the problems covered at the talks. The Soviet Union reaffirmed its unwavering support for the struggle of the Arab people of Palestine and their national rights, including the right to create their own independent state, Y. 'Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Executive Committee, said at a 13 January press conference for Soviet and foreign journalists.

Y. 'Arafat rated highly the Soviet Union's principled stance on the questions relating to a Near East settlement, including the Palestinian problem. The meeting with CPSU Central Committee General Secretary Comrade Yu.V. Andropov and other Soviet leaders, the PLO Executive Committee chairman stressed, took place in the spirit of friendship and comradeship characteristic of relations between the Palestinian and Soviet peoples. Y. 'Arafat assessed the results of the Soviet-Palestinian talks, at which a wide range of questions of mutual interest was discussed, as constructive, positive and fruitful.

On behalf of all Palestinian people, the PLO leader reported, we expressed deep gratitude to the Soviet Union for its assistance and support for the Palestinian people's just cause.

Y. 'Arafat sharply criticized U.S. Near East policy, which created conditions for the criminal Israeli war against Lebanon by arming Israel with modern weapons and inciting it to aggression. Washington also bears an indelible mark of shame, Y. 'Arafat stressed, in connection with the events which took place at the Palestinian camps of Sabra and Shatila.

The PLO Executive Committee chairman pointed out that the time will come when the documents recording his written negotiations with Habib, U.S. President Reagan's personal representative, which are evidence of gross violations of guarantees given during the talks, will be made public.

Talking with the so-called "Reagan initiative," the PLO leader noted that the U.S. Administration has no intention of contributing to the settlement of the Near East conflict since it is ignoring the chief problem -- the Palestinian problem. After the Camp David agreements, Y. 'Arafat continued, the Arabs were promised that the 1973 Arab-Israeli war would be the last in the Near East. But these contentions were overturned by the war in Lebanon, the most protracted and bloody war. Israel's current tactics at the Lebanese-Israeli talks, Y. 'Arafat noted, are worse than the Camp David deal since Tel Aviv, with full U.S. blessing, stated preliminary conditions long before the talks started.

Answering the IZVESTIYA correspondent's question about the rumors and fabrications in the West about the quality of Soviet armaments used by the Palestinian resistance movement fighters in the struggle against the aggressors, Y. 'Arafat said the following: The Palestinians in Lebanon were fighting against an Israeli army equipped with the most up-to-date U.S. weapons. But the Israeli army was unable to take the Lebanese capital and it marked time at the walls of West Beirut for 80 days. The Palestinians left Beirut voluntarily, at the request of the Lebanese allies. Thus, Y. 'Arafat stressed, I proved the effectiveness of Soviet weapons in practice.

SHEVARDNADZE SPEECH ON LABOR DISCIPLINE

PM011653 Tbilisi ZARYA VOSTOKA in Russian 11 Jan 83 pp 1-3

[Text of speech by E.A. Shevardnadze, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Georgian CP Central Committee, at 10 January meeting of the collective of the Tbilisi Dmitrov aircraft plant: "It Is the Duty of Everyone Who Values Soviet Georgia's Prestige To Strengthen Socialist Discipline in Every Possible Way"; capitalized passages published in boldface]

[Text] Dear comrades!

This meeting with you is very significant, because it marks a very important and bright event. Today, in the famous collective of Tbilisi's Dimitrov aircraft plant, a new patriotic initiative -- "MODEL DISCIPLINE, HIGH ORGANIZATION, ACTIVENESS AND RESPONSIBILITY FROM EVERYONE, EVERYWHERE AND IN EVERYTHING!" -- is acquiring wings, as it were.

The communist attitude to work and the communist way of life, which are inherent in our glorious working class, are graphically manifested in this approach.

We also perceive the fundamental significance of the Dimitrov plant workers' new initiative in the fact that it came into being immediately after the November (1982) plenum of our party's Central Committee. Calling at the plenum for a resolute struggle against any violations of party, state and labor discipline, Comrade Yu.V. Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, expressed confidence that this approach will be fully supported by party and trade union organizations and by all Soviet people.

AND, FOLLOWING THE EXAMPLE OF COLLECTIVES OF PROGRESSIVE MOSCOW ENTERPRISES, TBILISI'S AIRCRAFT BUILDERS WERE AMONG THE FIRST IN THE REPUBLIC TO SUPPORT WITH DEEDS THE PRINCIPLED LINE OF THE PARTY'S CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE POLITBURO, THEREBY SETTING AN EXAMPLE OF HIGH CONSCIOUSNESS AND ORGANIZATION.

The importance of the new initiative is also determined by the fact that it accords in the best possible way, in our view, with the tasks at the present stage of economic and cultural building in the republic and of further improving the Georgian CP's organizational and political work.

I.

Socialist discipline is a very great achievement and boon ensuring the economy's accelerated development and the genuine triumph of the principles of democraticism and humanism and the ideals of honesty, truth and goodness. THE HIGHER THE LEVEL OF SOCIALIST DISCIPLINE, THE MORE ORGANIZED AND HARMONIOUS THE PROCESS OF CREATING AND DISTRIBUTING MATERIAL BENEFITS -- AND EVERY HONEST WORKING PERSON IS VITALLY INTERESTED IN THIS.

High discipline, consciousness and political maturity enable people to resolve any tasks and overcome any difficulties. You will recall the incredible privations under which we developed the national economy and carried out industrialization and collectivization. You will recall the trials of the grim war years and the postwar reconstruction. You will recall the Virgin Lands and space.

What helped Soviet people to successfully realize those very complex tasks, whose resolution struck many people as simply unlikely? Revolutionary discipline and organization, fortitude and courage, high morale and profound consciousness, and devotion to the cause of our Leninist party.

And when we in the republic needed to overcome backwardness in the economy, eradicate negative phenomena and secure an improvement in the moral and psychological climate, we unhesitatingly took from the party's arsenal such a proven weapon as discipline. As you know, the CPSU Central Committee's well-known resolution on the Tbilisi Gorkom served as the stimulus for that.

In recent years the Georgian CP and the republic's party organizations have accumulated rich and, one might even say, unique experience of the struggle to strengthen discipline and ensure model public order. We value highly the fact that at the very start of this struggle, AT ITS FIRST STAGE, your collective together with Tbilisi's electric locomotive builders and the working people of the village of Khutsubani in Kobuletskiy Rayon and the village of Tkviavi in Goriyskiy Rayon actively supported the Georgian CP Central Committee's stand. The initiatives advanced created a sound socioeconomic and political basis for enhancing the prestige of party and other leading organs, overcoming the republic's backwardness in fulfilling the Ninth 5-Year Plan targets and bringing about a change for the better in the consciousness of a certain section of our population.

The June (1976) resolution of the Georgian CP Central Committee brought that stage to a logical conclusion. Generally evaluating the accumulated experience positively, the party put forward new, higher and more complex demands in that document. That decision marked the start of the next, SECOND STAGE of the struggle for discipline and order in all spheres of life in the republic.

Once again our glorious working class was at its vanguard, this time in the person of the Rustavi metallurgists, who advanced the initiative "NOT ONE LAGGARD OR VIOLATOR OF DISCIPLINE HERE!", and the working people of Kutaisi and of Tbilisi's Pervomayskiy Rayon, who decided to work WITHOUT LAGGARD COLLECTIVES.

Today we are all witnessing how THE NEW STAGE of the movement for model socialist discipline is maturing throughout the country, including Georgia. According to the tradition which has become established in recent years, before adopting any decision and determining the paths of further work, we have come to consult our loyal bulwark -- the working class -- and you, dear comrades, in order to report in detail on the republic party organization's deeds and achievements, shortcomings and painful problems.

The harmonious system of party leadership of the resolution of the most important economic and sociopolitical problems is the main achievement in strengthening discipline and enhancing organization and responsibility. It is founded on the method of concentrating efforts on the most urgent directions, as reflected in the setting up of various problem-solving commissions, working groups, councils, staffs and so forth, which have become an effective form of strengthening PARTY AND STATE DISCIPLINE.

After the Eighth Georgian CP Central Committee plenum (1977), commissions for strengthening discipline and coordinating the struggle against negative phenomena were set up under chiefs at all the Central Committee sections. Then, in order to coordinate their activities better, a special working group to strengthen discipline and socialist legality was formed under the leadership of Comrade G.V. Kolbin, second secretary of the Central Committee. Great work is being done by staffs to improve labor discipline and reduce cadre turnover.

It is particularly important that similar working groups, commissions, coordination councils and staffs have been created in the Georgian Trade Union Council and Komsomol Central Committee, ministries and departments, and all party obkoms, gorkoms and raykoms and labor collectives.

Concentrating our efforts, it is important to determine precisely what they are developing into.

In this we are helped by the practice of the monthly assessment of the results of the republic's socioeconomic development at joint sessions of the Georgian CP Central Committee and the republic Council of Ministers Presidium. This work is also being done in other management echelons. We are constantly expanding and intensifying it.

For the sixth year now quarterly sectorial and regional statistical reports on the state of labor discipline in the national economy's main sectors have been required in the republic. Party certification of leaders and other interesting forms of work with cadres practiced in our republic are aimed at the all-around consolidation of party and state discipline.

Great opportunities for the timely revelation and prevention of any violations are opened up by the system of monitoring discipline and law and order created in Telavskiy Rayon, where the party raykom constantly coordinates the activity of the planning, financial, statistic, administrative and all other monitoring organizations.

Great attention is being paid to improving the work style and methods of the party, soviet, economic and other organs and our entire party and state apparatus, and to raising workers' competence, responsibility, efficiency and energy. This question is regularly discussed early in the year at a Central Committee plenum. Our next plenum will be devoted to just this question.

As a whole the system approach has had a beneficial effect on the most diverse spheres of economic and sociopolitical life. The party Central Committee stressed this yet again when adopting last July the resolution "On the Georgian SSR Party Organizations' Organizational and Political Work in Preparing for the 60th Anniversary of the USSR."

When, at the ceremonial session in Moscow to mark this glorious date, we proudly said that every year of the past decade has been a red-banner one for Soviet Georgia, we did not conceal the fact that all these achievements and all the republic's successes in recent years are based on the development of criticism and self-criticism and the consolidation of party, state and labor discipline.

FIRST, we are persuaded that discipline is a powerful means of building up ECONOMIC POTENTIAL.

By comparison with 1972 the volumes of the gross national product, national revenue and industrial production have virtually doubled. The production and purchases of the main types of agricultural products have doubled, and we have begun to assimilate 60 percent more capital investments. The Georgian SSR's share in the country's gross national product has increased from 1.3 percent to 1.6 percent. That is a substantial increase, comrades.

An important role has been played here by the fact that losses of working time have been almost halved over the past 10 years, including a 130-percent decrease in absenteeism. According to calculations, this is equivalent to industrial output worth R427 million and R178 million, respectively.

In 1972 every fourth industrial enterprise failed to cope with the plan targets. This resulted in shortfall of output in excess of R230 million. Having subsequently implemented measures to strengthen planning discipline, we have been able to avert a loss of R41.9 billion is production output in the past decade and have created conditions for the production of above-plan articles worth R1.2 billion. That is the specific material expression of high exactingness and responsibility.

A high level of discipline and genuine selflessness have also helped the republic's working people to complete successfully the past year, which was unprecedentedly complex in terms of weather and economic conditions.

Our industry fulfilled the annual plan 103.2 percent, while industrial production growth rates, on the basis of the results of the first 2 years of the 5-year plan, were 109.4 percent instead of 109 percent.

This became possible as a result of the emergency measures undertaken by the Georgian CP Central Committee, the republic's government, party, soviet and economic organs and labor collectives. Individual regions and rayons, ministries and departments, enterprises and associations were assigned additional stepped-up targets with which the majority coped. The Dimitrov plant workers also made a substantial contribution by their truly shock labor.

ALL THIS CONFIRMS YET AGAIN THAT DISCIPLINE CAN AND MUST GUARANTEE US ADDITIONAL OUTPUT, HIGH LABOR PRODUCTIVITY AND PROFITABILITY, INCREASED WAGES AND UNIVERSAL PROSPERITY.

SECOND, there have been radical SOCIAL CHANGES in the republic's life which have promoted a sharp normalization of the moral climate.

It must be noted that from the outset we have backed up educational work with specific organizational measures. Thus, while demanding a respectful attitude to work from people, at the same time we created new jobs and over the decade recruited about 0.5 million people into social production.

The steady buildup of the industrial potential, progressive changes in agriculture and the development of other sectors have made it possible to increase the proportion of workers in the total number of people employed in the national economy.

Fundamental changes have also taken place in the life of our countryside, in the awareness of our kolkhoz peasantry.

We assess as the most important result of the consolidation of socialist discipline the enhancement of the social activeness of our scientific and creative intelligentsia and their involved participation in resolving complex economic and political tasks and in ideological work. IT IS TO OUR INTELLIGENTSIA'S ENORMOUS CREDIT THAT ABIDING MORAL VALUES AND PRINCIPLES HAVE AGAIN BECOME VALUED IN THE REPUBLIC AND THAT THE NORMS OF COMMUNIST MORALITY ARE BEING ASSERTED FIRMLY EVERYWHERE.

THIRD and finally, work to strengthen discipline and impose exemplary public order has helped to create a favorable POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE in the republic.

THIS IS EXPRESSED FIRST AND FOREMOST IN THE NOTABLE BROADENING OF DEMOCRACY WITHIN THE PARTY AND SOCIALIST DEMOCRACY IN GENERAL, THE ENHANCEMENT OF THE POLITICAL AUTHORITY OF LEADING PARTY, SOVIET AND ECONOMIC ORGANS, PUBLIC ORGANIZATIONS AND CREATIVE UNIONS AND THE GROWTH OF THE WORKING PEOPLE'S ACTIVENESS. People have begun to approach us openheartedly, with great trust, to share their innermost thoughts and sensible suggestions.

Today the republic is mobilized to resolve the complex, responsible new tasks put forward at the November plenum of the party's Central Committee. This can be seen clearly from the example of your plant's collective.

As a rule the flagship's experience is a microcosm of the experience of the entire republic. It is no accident that in recent years a relatively well-thought-out system of controlling discipline has grown up at your plant. It incorporates all the best elements created at other enterprises, where weekly, monthly and quarterly reports and conferences on discipline have become the rule, councils of workers' honor, workers'

dynasties and mentors operate and posts of deputy leaders for educational work have been created. Moral and material sanctions are actively used against violators of labor discipline. Conversely, the experience of the best production workers becomes the property of the entire collective.

The most important components of this system have also proved successful in the conditions of Tbilisi's Dimitrov aircraft plant. Preventive councils, commissions for combating negative phenomena and for dismissals and so forth have earned great prestige. Much work is done to strengthen discipline by the party, Komsomol and trade union aktiv, people's control posts and the administration. Instances of violations are included in the plant's internal report and recorded in workers' personal dossiers.

All this has brought tangible progress. Absenteeism has fallen and cadre turnover has been considerably reduced.

It is also interesting that, since our meeting at the last plant report and election conference, you have created a system of monitoring 17 basic socioeconomic indicators in parallel with the system of labor discipline control. It is a miniature version of the republican scheme. Four working parties have been set up, whose activity is coordinated by the plant commission.

Here too the systematic approach has yielded tangible fruit. The plant has grown considerably, as each of you probably sees. Fundamental, qualitative changes and structural shifts have taken place in production. Efficiency has increased.

Yet only recently you had serious shortcomings, and there was a period when the role of leader was assigned to the plant more from habit than on merit. At that time we had to discuss the plant's problems at the level of the Central Committee Bureau. Comparing all this with today, you can see for yourselves what great potential is opened up by improving the standard of discipline, organization and exactingness.

The enterprise's economic base has strengthened. Thus, output per worker has increased several times over in the last 10 years. There has been a significant fall in the proportion of rejects in production, and this indicator is now half the average for the sector. On the whole profitable work is ensured. All this has extended the potential for material incentives for the workers. Thus the average wage of production workers has increased 50 percent, and payments for the 13th month have increased 130 percent. Each of you can probably feel the benefit.

How the face of the plant and the whole of the adjacent residential district has changed! In the current year alone the plant's workers will receive more than 20,000 square meters of housing, which is three times as much as in 1972. Here, of course, we realize that you still have an acute housing problem. New production areas are being constructed. In our opinion the plant's subsidiary farm could serve as a model for many other enterprises. Every member of the collective is aware of this.

Today the plant is above the sector average in such indicators as the rates of growth of output volume, labor productivity and return on capital, and the rate of reduction in labor-intensiveness, the proportion of workers servicing more than one machine tool and the number of workers covered by the team form of labor organization. This has created a basis for this slogan: "Each enterprise must be among the best in the sector, the republic, the country!" -- a slogan actively supported in the current 5-year plan by the collectives of many enterprises, farms, ministries and departments.

Not only the Dimitrov plant workers have been able to see the advantages of skillful organization of things and of high discipline and responsibility.

The working people of Tkviavi's L. Ketskhoveli Kolkhoz in Goriyskiy Rayon, who in the past, as we have already mentioned, were also initiators of the movement for high discipline, have increased fruit sales to the state by 700 percent over the past 10 years. The farm's profitability has increased from 24 to 62 percent. The pay per man-day has quadrupled, and output per kolkhoz member has increased 50 percent. We have already cited these figures at the last Georgian CP Central Committee plenum.

In principle, the work on strengthening socialist discipline has not passed without trace for the collective of the Rustavi metallurgical plant. All these years have not been easy for one of the initiators of the movement for work without laggards and violators of discipline. There have been many objective reasons, which could have resulted in another enterprise altogether losing face. However, the Rustavi metallurgists withstood all the difficulties in an organized manner and, thanks to high discipline, overcame many of them with minimal losses. If we today evaluate as a whole the trends which have taken shape at the plant over the past 10 years, we see positive changes.

Coke and cast iron production has increased 30.3 and 20 percent, respectively. Metallurgists today are producing 19.9 percent more rolled metal and 15.2 percent more pipes than 10 years ago. Labor productivity has increased 30 percent. The number of absentees has fallen by a factor of 5, while losses from absenteeism have fallen by a factor of 2.5. Wages have increased 40 percent.

It is clear from all I have said that QUESTIONS OF STRENGTHENING DISCIPLINE AND ORDER AND ENHANCING THE ORGANIZATION AND RESPONSIBILITY OF COMMUNISTS HAVE CONSTANTLY BEEN AT THE CENTER OF OUR PARTY ORGANIZATION'S ATTENTION OVER THE PAST 10 YEARS.

Nevertheless, comrades, this work must be stepped up still further and raised to a qualitatively new level. This is the objective demand of the time, and the majority of our working people understand that. A sociological poll conducted at your enterprise by employees of the center for studying, forecasting and shaping public opinion under the Georgian CP Central Committee showed that the overwhelming majority of comrades -- 93.5 percent of those questioned -- consider the demand advanced at the November plenum by Comrade Yu.V. Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, to strengthen discipline in every possible way an acutely urgent, topical demand dictated by vital necessity. Almost all those questioned pointed out that THE STRENGTHENING OF LABOR DISCIPLINE IS A MATTER OF HONOR AND CONSCIENCE FOR THE WORKING CLASS.

A similar atmosphere reigns today at many enterprises and in many party organizations and labor collectives. We know that our industrious kolkhoz peasantry also has not remained aloof from the business of strengthening socialist discipline everywhere and in everything. As was the case 10 years ago, the L. Ketskhoveli Kolkhoz in the Goriyskiy Rayon village of Tkviavi is the initiator of the new movement in the countryside. The commissions set up under the party committee have placed under their control not only questions of strengthening labor discipline in individual teams and links and enhancing the responsibility of every kolkhoz member, but also all the most important indicators of production activity, the work of the public health, education and trade establishments located on the territory of the kolkhoz, and so forth.

The system set up by the people of Tkviavi provides for the resolute suppression of any violations of discipline and public order, including family moral and material responsibility for remiss members. I believe we have something to learn from our Tkviavi comrades. It is not surprising that the food program being implemented by the kolkhoz provides for almost a doubling of the production and procurement of the basic agricultural products.

WE REGARD THE TKVIAVI PEOPLE'S INITIATIVE AS A NEW STAGE OF THE MOVEMENT FOR HIGH SOCIALIST DISCIPLINE IN THE COUNTRYSIDE.

Representatives of the republic's intelligentsia also display great initiative -- which, in our view, is of fundamental significance. These days the Tbilisi State University collective is joining in the movement for model discipline and high consciousness and organization.

It must be noted that substantial positive changes have occurred in our education system in recent years. The academic pass rate in VUZes nave increased from 74.4 to 86.9 percent in 10 years, while it has almost doubled in correspondence course departments. Nearly a 100-percent pass rate has been ensured in schools and in technical and vocational and technical colleges. Absences from lessons for inadequate reasons have been roughly halved, on average, in all educational institutions.

Developing and deepening work on strengthening discipline and enhancing organization, students and lecturers at Tbilisi State University are seeking to coordinate it better with organizational measures in literally all spheres of life in the VUZ. Thus, it is a question of further improving the ideological, political, labor and moral education of youth as a whole, accustoming students to science and creativity in a more organized and persistent manner, actively involving all professors and lecturers in scientific activity, enhancing their competence, and creating an atmosphere of high morality in the educational institution. THIS WILL MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO BETTER SUBORDINATE WORK ON STRENGTHENING DISCIPLINE TO THE INTERESTS OF TRAINING A HIGHLY-SKILLED, IDEOLOGICALLY MATURE SPECIALIST.

There is also much that is new in other collectives. This is reported in an interesting form by our press, television and radio every day. They were the first to notice -- I would say "discover" -- and support the initiative of Tbilisi's aircraft builders.

Everyone remembers, in particular, the special television program devoted to the plant, its history and its present day. Looking at the shots recording episodes in the installation of the plant in the difficult wartime, you see that the principles of strict discipline and vigilance, high organization and consciousness were fundamental to the collective of Dimitrov plant workers from its very first day.

WE BELIEVE THAT THROUGH ITS LABOR, ITS GOOD TRADITIONS AND ITS HIGH MORAL, POLITICAL AND BUSINESS QUALITIES THE WORKING CLASS OF TBILISI'S DIMITROV AIRCRAFT PLANT HAS WORTHILY WON, TOGETHER WITH OTHER ENTERPRISES IN THE COUNTRY, THE HONORABLE RIGHT TO OPEN A NEW PAGE IN THE STRUGGLE FOR SOCIALIST DISCIPLINE.

II.

Under the new conditions, at the latest stage of the struggle for model communist order everywhere and in everything, special significance attaches to A CONCRETE, COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO PROBLEMS OF STRENGTHENING DISCIPLINE.

It is impossible, for example, to view all this work in isolation from ECONOMIC ACTIVITY. Discipline in production is not an abstract concept; It entails model fulfillment of the plan, smooth material and technical supplies, the use of progressive technology, a good financial position and much else. This is why it is important primarily to direct discipline, like all other levers, toward achieving high end production results.

Discipline should be regarded as one of the most important elements in the entire system of production organizations.

Surely it is possible to coordinate work on strengthening discipline with questions of improving scientific labor organization, introducing the team form, accelerating scientific and technical progress, improving labor productivity, ensuring a strict policy of thrift and model observance of agricultural techniques, and so forth?

The experience of our work on the method of concentrating efforts proves that we must approach this very important all-party and all-state matter in precisely this way and only in this way. WE MUST TRY TO ENSURE THAT MODEL LABOR DISCIPLINE IS BASICALLY MAINTAINED BY OVERALL HIGH PRODUCTION AND AGRICULTURAL STANDARDS AND IS AIMED AT ACHIEVING THE MAXIMUM END RESULT.

Therefore, we cannot fail to be alarmed by the fact that hundreds of thousands of man-days were lost in the republic's industry during the first 9 months of last year alone. As a result of absenteeism, downtime and unauthorized absences, a daily average of several thousand people did not work -- which is, you see, equivalent to a large enterprise or association standing idle.

Statistics show that appropriate educational work is conducted badly at the Ministries of the Construction Materials Industry, Fruit and Vegetable Farming, and Construction and in other ministries and departments. Absenteeism is frequently perpetrated by the same people. At the Adchameti construction materials combine, for example, approximately 1,600 man-days were lost during the 9 months. As for punishment, no one was punished. What sort of exactingness can that be called?

Or take PLAN DISCIPLINE. Is it possible to demand a high return from working people if during the first 9 months of last year alone, through the fault of certain union ministries, plan targets in the republic's industry were amended downward 492 times, and the volume of output not produced as a result amounted to more than R384 million? Industrial output worth more than R200 million was not produced during the same period because of violation of the assortment plan. I want the working class to also know about our sins, about the shortcomings and shortfalls which occur in the activities of the apparatuses of ministries, departments and republic organs.

We believe that the time has come for the republic Gosplan and Central Statistical Administration, as well as local party, soviet and economic organs, to resolutely tackle all questions connected with observance of plan discipline. We must ensure that no plan is changed without careful consideration and agreement at the level of the republic's highest planning and statistical organs.

High discipline presupposes, above all, collective responsibility for work. It abhors departmental narrowness. But how then, one wonders, is one to evaluate the fact that one in three enterprises in the republic fails to fulfill its CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS, and the volume of undersupplied output exceeded R300 million last year? More than 10,000 instances of violations of contractual terms were recorded in industry.

Statistics clearly show that violations of delivery discipline have recently become characteristic of enterprises of the republic's Ministries of the Food Industry, Light Industry, and Local Industry. The situation is shaping up no better at enterprises of union subordination, which account for almost 40 percent of the entire volume of undersupplied output.

Of course, such organizations incur great losses. But equal losses are incurred by quite innocent subcontractors and the national economy as a whole. Strict observance of contract discipline is a vitally necessary condition for the normal functioning of our unified, planned national economic complex.

We believe that leaders of ministries, departments and enterprises must also be more strictly accountable for violations of FINANCIAL DISCIPLINE. In this matter we need a very strict and principled stand on the part of the Ministry of Finance and the Georgian offices of the USSR Gosbank and Stroybank.

Republic and local leading organs must also similarly display more exactingness and responsibility in all other questions, for it is impossible to speak of the competent leadership of a rayon if the yields of agricultural crops are extremely low there, as they are in Znaurskiy, Sachkherskiy, Signakhskiy and certain other rayons. Or are leaders not to blame for such a violation of discipline as, say, a drop in livestock-raising productivity or in average milk yields, as happens in Akhmetskiy, Tianetskiy, Tsulukidzevskiy and a number of other rayons? Is it tolerable that last year we had a shortfall of thousands of tons of grain just because of violations of the agricultural times for sowing grain crops? That, too, is a gross violation of discipline.

Likewise, incidentally, the fact that during the 10th 5-Year Plan and the first 2 years of the 11th plan we underassimilated state capital investments worth more than R180 million and more than R100 million, respectively.

The delay in introducing the achievements of scientific and technical progress is causing the republic substantial losses. I believe that each of you has a material interest in speeding this up. Yet, during the first 9 months of last year, only 78.1 percent of the planned measures to assimilate new types of industrial production, 88.4 percent of the plan of measures to introduce progressive technology and 93 percent and 88.8 percent respectively of the plans of measures to mechanize and automate production processes were realized. We have experienced several instances of highly effective developments not being introduced for years. This makes us mention the need to improve SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL DISCIPLINE.

It is time for us to learn to make claims not only on labor collectives, but also on the organs which lead them and on specific leaders. For, it is no secret that if an unsatisfactory situation takes shape in machine building or metallurgy, it means not just that individual enterprises but also the ministry is not working at the proper standard, that party organs are not displaying sufficient principledness and exactingness, and that the relevant working group is operating only poorly, and so forth. In a word, comrades, I want to say that we need discipline today not just at the lathe but also in offices and that the EXEMPLARY DISCIPLINE OF THE WORKER STARTS WITH THE HIGH ORGANIZATION AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE LEADER.

An analysis of the situation at the Kutaisi motor vehicle plant convinces us of this yet again. Quite recently this enterprise was among our frontrankers. The collective coped surely with plans, worked steadily and won the all-union socialist competition more than once.

However, exactingness, primarily in the leading link, had only to be somewhat weakened and this began to slowly affect the state of labor, production, plan and financial discipline. All these shortcomings appeared with special force in recent years, when the plant has been working under conditions of renovation at the same time as creating new capacities for the production of agricultural truck trailers. The result was serious disruptions in the production program.

The Georgian CP Central Committee Bureau warned the plant's leadership and its director Comrade V.I. Kharebav on more than one occasion. Serious criticism was voiced at our plenums, too. But the proper conclusions were not drawn from this. What is more, in order to create an appearance of well-being at the plant, distortion and deception were indulged in.

We could not, of course, tolerate this. Nobody can be forgiven for such things, not even such a well-known and honored person, a deputy and member of the party gorkom bureau as Comrade V.I. Kharebav. We did not spare him because we had no right to be weak or lenient. We gave more than one warning from above that we must not have manipulations with the plan's fulfillment but concrete production and concrete work. Let us hope that what happened at Kutaisi motor vehicle plant -- and Comrade V.I. Kharebav and certain other comrades had to be relieved of their posts there -- will serve as an instructive lesson for all our comrades and all our leaders, young and experienced alike.

Today, when the movement to strengthen party, state and labor discipline to the utmost is expanding throughout our country in response to the Central Committee November plenum decisions, it is our duty to be in the vanguard, in the forefront of this struggle. Your initiative under the slogan of "Exemplary discipline and a high level of organization, activeness and responsibility from everybody, everywhere and in everything!" marks a qualitatively new approach to all this work.

A special feature of the present stage of the struggle to strengthen socialist discipline in the republic is that today this movement is unfolding in specially favorable conditions. We sense a general activeness and we can see that throughout the country, especially since the Central Committee November plenum, a sense of responsibility for the matter in hand is growing in ministries, departments and party organizations.

Additional potential for the improvement of labor output, better production organization and the exposure of new reserve are appearing among us. NOW WE CAN STRUGGLE TO TRANSFORM NOT ONLY INDIVIDUAL ENTERPRISES, ORGANIZATIONS AND FARMS, BUT THE WHOLE OF SOVIET GEORGIA INTO A REPUBLIC OF HIGHLY EFFICIENT LABOR AND EXEMPLARY PUBLIC ORDER.

This noble task is also completely in line with our other strategic aim: TO OVERCOME THE REPUBLIC'S RELATIVE LAG BEHIND THE UNIONWIDE LEVEL AND PROMOTE IT TO THE RANKS OF THE COUNTRY'S FOREMOST REGIONS.

It is simply unrealistic to try to resolve this task without exemplary discipline and general activeness and organization.

You comrades know and can see for yourselves what complex problems have arisen in many sectors and spheres of life. There are serious difficulties in the population's food supply -- we all experience this: in housing provision for people, in gas, fuel and electricity supply and so forth. Of course, subjective errors are partly to blame here. But we are sure that you understand that most difficulties are objective in nature and we are doing everything we can to overcome them.

First, we cannot fail to take account of the fact that we had bad harvests several years in a row in various regions of the country, including our republic, and were struck by unprecedented natural disasters. It would be naive to think that all this had no effect on meeting people's needs, on material and technical supply and on other questions.

I say bluntly: It is only under the socialist system, only because of the tremendous natural resources of our country and the stubborness and persistence of Soviet people that we will manage to extricate ourselves from all these difficulties with relatively few losses. Nevertheless, many problems still remain, and they will make themselves felt in the future too. We must all be ready for this.

Second, the tension which has been created is also being aggravated by the international situation in the world. We can all sense how it has intensified lately.

The course being adhered to by the Washington administration and other reactionary Western governments in no way helps improve mutual trust and mutual understanding between states. In these conditions, all Soviet people are united in their opinion that the defense of our great country must be strengthened at any price.

We would be happy if even part of the funds being spent on defense today could be spent on developing the social sphere and improving the level of material well-being. We are sick of the arms race, we stand for world peace and detente and we have confirmed this several times with concrete initiatives. Nevertheless, we cannot allow any slackening in our defense might today.

THIS IS WHY WE RAISE THE QUESTION AGAIN, WITH SUCH PRINCIPLEDNESS AND RESOLUTION, OF DISCIPLINE, ORGANIZATION AND ORDER EVERYWHERE AND IN EVERYTHING, OF LEGALITY AND JUSTICE ESPECIALLY IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIAL GOODS, OF A HIGH LEVEL OF EXACTINGNESS AND SO FORTH. ALL THIS NOW ASSUMES A SPECIAL AND EXCEPTIONAL SIGNIFICANCE.

We must seek to ensure that discipline is the motivating principle which makes it possible to better reveal and channel into a creative line the social and creative energy of each citizen and ensure the maximum rapprochement and combination of the interests of the private individual and society as a whole. It must be transformed increasingly from a REGULATING factor into an ORGANIZING factor.

WE ADVOCATE AN ACTIVE LIFE STANCE, ACTIVE DISCIPLINE ON THE PART OF EVERYONE!

III.

Very crucial and most complex tasks today face PRIMARY LINKS AND LABOR COLLECTIVES. Can you say, for example, that all problems of strengthening discipline have been resolved in your collective when instances of absenteeism and lateness for work have not been finally eradicated and when they occur more frequently than the average for the sector?

What sort of level of party discipline can there be if the plant essentially does not fulfill our instructions on increasing the volume and improving the range and quality of consumer goods? Do you remember how sharply we criticized you for this at the last party report and election conference? FOR AN INCORRECT RESPONSE TO CRITICISM FROM ABOVE AND BELOW IS A MOST FLAGRANT VIOLATION OF DISCIPLINE.

There are many other shortcomings, and this means that the party committee, all Communists and management must toughen up their demands and enhance exactingness. A similar demand was also advanced by the workers themselves at meetings held recently in several of the plant's shops and sections.

The chief task is to reach the level of the best enterprises in the sector. The chief socioeconomic indicators must surpass the average for the sector not only in terms of growth rates but also in absolute terms. For this, as envisaged in the comprehensive program drawn up at the enterprise, it is important primarily to ensure the accelerated growth of the capital-output ratio and labor productivity and improve the shift coefficient for machine tools with numerical program control.

Taking the constant growth of production into account, it is necessary to improve work with cadres. Yes, turnover among you, comrades, really is low, but then the conditions created for the collective are special -- which means that what has been achieved is not the limit.

In the light of the new initiative it is necessary to considerably extend the rights and opportunities of Communists and the entire collective in exercising control over all types of labor and production discipline.

To this end it clearly makes sense to somewhat broaden the sphere of activity of the all-plant commission and the working groups, which exercise control over the formation of the main socioeconomic indicators, and to enhance the activeness of all workers.

The work of standing production conferences and workers' general meetings also requires further activation. It is necessary to ensure that all the working people's public formation -- councils of the all-union society of inventors and rationalizers and the scientific and technical society -- clearly define their place in this work.

SOCIALIST COMPETITION is an important lever for activating working people and strengthening their organization, responsibility and conscious discipline. Under competition conditions it is necessary to strengthen points relating to labor and production discipline and see to it that the most conscientious, disciplined and organized production workers are recognized as competition winners.

All this, undoubtedly, under conditions of a sharp improvement in the operating style and methods of the plant's party, trade union, Komsomol and other organizations and management.

It is important to ensure a similar approach in all labor collectives. Appeals and calls for the strengthening of discipline and organization must everywhere be backed up by the elaboration and implementation of special comprehensive plans drawn up with the participation of all members of the collective and, most importantly, with regard to all the positive experience accumulated. A new decision, as Comrade Yu.V. Andropov emphasized, must be adopted only when all previous ones have been fulfilled.

It is particularly important that specific workers be responsible for each point in the measures. In our view, every executor and even every member of the collective could in the course of the year find a form in which to report on his own contribution to strengthening discipline.

The strategy and tactics of action should be clearly defined for gorkoms, raykoms, ministries and departments and should be discussed at party and economic aktiv meetings. Great tasks are entrusted to soviet, trade union and Komsomol organs, the People's Control Committee, administrative organs and other controlling organs. We expect all our ideological services to intensify their work still further and the mass media to find interesting new forms of presenting materials.

Much depends on the active stance of our creative unions. We need new, highly artistic works to organize and mobilize people. At the same time the rich creative legacy of past years must also be utilized more widely.

High discipline demands a global and concrete approach. Our entire public, our entire population must rise to struggle against shortcomings. This alone will enable us to struggle better and more effectively against all violations and overcome existing shortcomings more successfully.

It must be made clear to everyone that, the higher the level of society's development, the more strict and extensive are the demands made on discipline. WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIALIST SOCIAL RELATIONS THE STRENGTHENING OF DISCIPLINE IS A NATURAL AND OBJECTIVELY NECESSARY PROCESS WHICH IS CONSTANTLY BEING BROADENED AND DEEPENED.

I believe that time itself has made the demand on the working class, the kolkhoz peasantry and the intelligentsia to ANSWER FOR DISCIPLINE EVERYWHERE AND IN EVERYTHING. Our working people must truly be responsible for their own rayon or city, their own republic, our entire country.

It is necessary to take a stricter approach to any manifestations of RED TAPE AND FORMALISM or of a callous attitude toward people. Before the meeting started, we were chatting with a small group of workers, and they were quite rightly indignant at instances of bureaucracy and red tape in many organizations, including those in charge of municipal services, in administrative organs and so forth. What sort of exactingness or discipline can there be if there are still workers who treat their duties in a bureaucratic and formal manner and who do not think about people, about working people or about protecting their interests?

Developing with new vigor the movement for stronger discipline, we will eradicate in a still more principled and uncompromising manner any elements of red tape and formalism, callousness and conceit, departmentalism and protectionism.

At the same time it is important, comrades, to mount still more persistently and purposefully the struggle against CRIME, EMBEZZLEMENT OF SOCIALIST PROPERTY AND BRIBETAKING. Until we achieve a decisive breakthrough in the observance of the Soviet laws, any wishes, even our very best wishes, regarding the strengthening of discipline will remain only wishes.

This is why we are now waging this struggle in a sharp and uncompromising way. Very strict measures are being taken, even including the supreme punishment, against especially dangerous, incorrigible criminals. You will recall the so-called "juice affairs," the business exposed at the champagne wine plant and our stand with regard to the Ministry of Finance and the well-known facts of bribetaking in the 26 Commissars Rayon.

The struggle is not diminishing. Today we want to say that it will be intensified still further. Let this be taken into account by those who do not intend to reckon with the norms of our communist morality. Let scroungers, bribetakers, grabbers, embezzlers of state funds and all kinds of slick operators and tricksters know that they will be shown no mercy! I am sure that the working class will actively support us in this.

The path to prosperity lies by way of honest labor, for there is no other road. The better we work, the better we will live, Comrade Yu.V. Andropov emphasized. We cannot allow someone to be able to live better than others not because he puts more energy and intellect into public prosperity but because he has simply lost his conscience and uses any means in the name of personal success.

It is necessary to display high vigilance and principledness, but by no means is this done always. Otherwise how could it happen that even certain workers in your plant were members of a criminal gang, and the court recently sentenced them to the supreme punishment? We cited this fact at the report and election conference, because one of the criminals was even a party member. It came to light later that these people had been committing crimes of unprecedented cynicism and effrontery. No one in the collective even suspected it. Therefore it is necessary to display more vigilance in the future and call people to order in time, without waiting for them to finally ruin themselves both morally and physically. Such wounds are slow to heal and they influence everyone.

We have boundless respect for workers of all trades, including comrades employed in the services sphere. There are tens and hundreds of thousands of working people, the overwhelming majority of whom are honest and conscientious people -- we know that. Nevertheless, here too there are still many violations, deviations and disgraceful things. It happens, moreover, that they occur before the eyes of everyone, including your collective. Instances of the gross overcharging of customers were exposed literally right outside the plant, in store No 44. One of the canteen staff of the public catering trust association was caught red-handed selling to a private individual 45 kg of meat destined for the plant's workers.

We highly value and boundlessly respect our doctors and public health workers. How many people's lives they have saved or brought back to health. We believe that this is a reliable detachment of our intelligentsia. Nevertheless, in this sphere, too, you sometimes encounter workers with low qualifications, who are callous and full of red tape and rudeness.

This is why, when speaking of order everywhere and in everything, we undoubtedly bear in mind the fact that your plant's working class will set an example of the way to give patronage assistance, to organize control over trade and consumer services enterprises, public health establishments, schools and kindergartens, cultural and educational establishments, and transport, and to instill exemplary communist order in the enterprise, the family and the street. In a word -- EVERYWHERE -- we will always be with you in this sacred struggle!

TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT EVERYTHING AND BE INVOLVED IN EVERYTHING -- THIS IS THE INDICATOR OF THE HIGH CIVIC QUALITIES AND THE COMMUNIST MORALITY AND CONSCIOUSNESS OF THE INDIVIDUAL. DISCIPLINE AND MORALITY, DISCIPLINE AND CONSCIOUSNESS ARE INTERRELATED CONCEPTS.

These qualities are convincingly embodied by the best representatives of your glorious collective, the Communists Trifon Rostiashvili and Gavril Sukhin, Shota Likhishvili and Fedor Barygin, Medeya Kazishvili and Mariya Ovsyanikova, David Doshoyan and Ashir Ashirov, Valeriy Kudukov and many, many others, as well as all those here. We know that the best of the best, foremost production workers, comrades who really are the mainstay of our party organization are gathered here today. It is precisely people like this, like you workers of the modern type, who are our country's true masters with a vital interest in its further flowering.

The future belongs to such people. Communism means not only abundance, it is also a way of life, the highest discipline, responsibility, assiduity and the ability to make sensible use of material benefits and to measure one's requirements against the potential of our society.

In addressing the workers of Tbilisi's Dimitrov aircraft plant today we are addressing our republic's entire working class, technicians and engineers and leaders of economic subdivisions. We appeal to working people in industry, transport and construction to strengthen socialist discipline still more, develop collectivist principles in labor and enhance activeness, organization and responsibility for its end results.

WE ARE SURE THAT OUR GLORIOUS WORKING CLASS WILL MOUNT THE STRUGGLE FOR MODEL SOCIALIST DISCIPLINE WITH NEW INTENSITY AND NEW INEXHAUSTIBLE ENERGY AND WILL DO EVERYTHING TO REVEAL NEW PRODUCTION RESERVES AND FURTHER ACCELERATE THE BUILDUP OF THE INDUSTRIAL POTENTIAL OF SOVIET GEORGIA AND OUR ENTIRE COUNTRY!

We appeal today to our diligent kolkhoz peasantry, to all the republic's agricultural workers, to specialists and the rural intelligentsia to ensure model order in agriculture and in allied sectors and to ensure the stable functioning of the agroindustrial complex on the basis of high organization and discipline and every sector's responsibility for the end results. These are the urgent demands of the country's Food Program.

WE ARE SURE THAT ALL RURAL WORKING PEOPLE AND THE RURAL PUBLIC WILL ACTIVELY JOIN IN THE PATRIOTIC MOVEMENT FOR HIGH PARTY, STATE AND LABOR DISCIPLINE AND WILL DO EVERYTHING IN THEIR POWER TO IMPROVE THE YIELDS OF THE MAIN AGRICULTURAL CROPS AND LIVESTOCK-RAISING PRODUCTIVITY, WILL REDUCE LOSSES OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE TO A MINIMUM AND WILL TURN CONCERN FOR THE HARVEST INTO AN OBJECT OF DAILY ATTENTION FOR EVERY FARM, EVERY COLLECTIVE AND EVERY WORKING PERSON.

Today we are addressing our fine intelligentsia. Their high degree of discipline, organization, consciousness and creative activeness are reflected in the major scientific discoveries and highly efficient developments that have been introduced in recent years and in new works of literature and art which touch on topical social problems and are a powerful device for our people's ideological education.

Strengthening discipline among scientific and cultural workers is a difficult and complex process requiring the utmost tact and the creation of conditions which help to bring to light in the best way the creative individuality of the scientist, writer, artist and cultural figure.

WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT OUR ILLUSTRIOUS SCIENTISTS, LITERARY AND ARTISTIC FIGURES, TEACHERS, DOCTORS AND OUR TECHNICAL INTELLIGENTSIA WILL CONTINUE TO INCREASE THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO OUR PEOPLE'S INTELLECTUAL AND SPIRITUAL WEALTH.

Today we are addressing our remarkable young people and in so doing would particularly like to stress that our young people have always been beside us and have always been our reliable support in the struggle to improve the moral and psychological climate. We know that young people are particularly sensitive to all negative phenomena and instances of bureaucracy and formalism which are still occurring in our life. We know that our young people have a special regard for honesty, frankness and confidentiality. They respond to such treatment with new outbursts of energy and enthusiasm. There are many examples to confirm that here.

WE PAY EXCEPTIONAL ATTENTION TO OUR YOUNG PEOPLE AND HOLD TRADITIONAL MEETINGS WITH THEIR BEST REPRESENTATIVES ON NEW YEAR'S EVE SO AS TO SHARE OUR THOUGHTS WITH THEM AND TO GIVE THEM A KIND OF SENDOFF ON THE ROAD TO NEW DEEDS. TODAY WE REPEAT: WE REALLY BELIEVE IN THE TREMENDOUS POTENTIAL AND CREATIVE FORCE OF OUR ILLUSTRIOUS YOUNG PEOPLE.

We appeal to our soviet organs and economic and trade union organizations headed by the party committees to comprehensively strengthen party, state and labor discipline and to increase activeness and competence in the leadership of the most important areas of life. You have tremendous potential, dear comrades! Over 2 million of the republic's workers belong to trade unions. We have limitless trust in our economic cadres and consider our captains of industry to be our reliable bulwark in all matters. Considerable influence and prestige are enjoyed universally by our deputies, who are called on to make the soviets responsible for order everywhere and in everything.

Of course, our main organizational and political strength lies in our primary party organizations and party raykoms, gorkoms and obkoms, which are always at the head of all that is new and always in the forefront, leading the broad working masses behind them.

IT IS YOU WHO MUST HEAD THE CAMPAIGN FOR HIGH DISCIPLINE, ORGANIZATION, EXACTINGNESS, ACTIVENESS AND RESPONSIBILITY!

Discipline everywhere and in everything and a high degree of responsibility are the indicators of people's maturity. Discipline is our honor and our dignity. Discipline in conjunction with the people's material and spiritual values are indicators of their strength and might, their sense of organization and spirituality. THE SENSE OF NATIONAL DIGNITY WHOSE ESSENCE IS TO HONORABLY FULFILL ONE'S PATRIOTIC AND INTERIONALIST DUTY TO OUR COUNTRY IS MANIFESTED PRIMARILY IN HIGH DISCIPLINE, RESPONSIBILITY AND COMPLETE SELFLESSNESS.

We are launching the struggle for discipline and organization in the name of the prosperity of our republic and or our entire and great motherland and for a better life for our people.

Soviet Georgia's prestige and the happiness and good of all the nations and ethnic groups inhabiting it depend on the success of this struggle, on the mind of moral climate that we create in the republic, and on how we work and live.

This is why we are confident that the Dimitrov plant workers' initiative will find universal support and will be another source for increasing our republic's contribution to nationwide and statewide property.

LONG LIVE OUR ILLUSTRIOUS WORKING CLASS, KOLKHOZ PEASANTRY AND PEOPLE'S INTELLIGENTSIA, WHO ARE SETTING EXAMPLES OF HIGH CONSCIOUSNESS AND DISCIPLINE!

GREAT SUCCESS TO YOU, DEAR COMRADES, IN YOUR PATRIOTIC CAMPAIGN FOR EXEMPLARY DISCIPLINE, A HIGH DEGREE OF ORGANIZATION, ACTIVENESS AND RESPONSIBILITY EVERYWHERE AND IN EVERYTHING!

TURKMEN PROCURATOR BOARD HOLDS MEETING 2 FEB

GF021812 Ashkhabad Domestic Service in Russian 1645 GMT 2 Feb 83

[Text] The results of the work of the republic's procurator organs during 1982 and the tasks emerging from the decisions of the November 1982 CPSU Central Committee and other documents were discussed during an expanded meeting of the board of the Procuratorate of the Turkmen SSR held on 2 February. The procurators of the oblasts, cities and rayons, responsible workers of the Procuratorate, and leaders of the republic's law enforcement organs were invited to the meeting. Turkmen SSR Procurator Arinin gave a report.

The reporters and speakers noted that the organs of the republic's Procuratorate in close cooperation with the other law enforcement organs and social organizations have carried out a considerable amount of work in achieving greater supervision over law enforcement and in strengthening order and have taken a number of measures in crime prevention and in promoting propaganda on the law. All this has further strengthened law and order in the republic, enhanced the struggle against crime, and improved maintenance of rights and law of [words indistinct].

At the same time the board referred to shortcomings related to the work of the procurator's organs. There is an inadequate struggle against the [word indistinct] of socialist property, [words indistinct] and other violations of state discipline.

Comrade Rachkov, second secretary of the Turkmen Communist Party Central Committee, addressed the meeting. Corresponding resolutions were adopted on questions discussed. Comrades Karryyev and Makarkin, members of the Turkmen Communist Party Central Committee Bureau, participated in the work of the meeting.

BRIEFS

ROMANOV SPEECHES, ARTICLES -- A collection of selected speeches and articles by Comrade Romanov, member of the Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of Leningrad Obkom, has been published in a second, enlarged edition. The book describes the work of the oblast party organization in implementing the decisions of the 24th, 25th and 26th party congresses and the CPSU Central Committee plenums. The book has been published by Political Literature Publishing House. [Text] [Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1730 GMT 1 Feb 83 LD]